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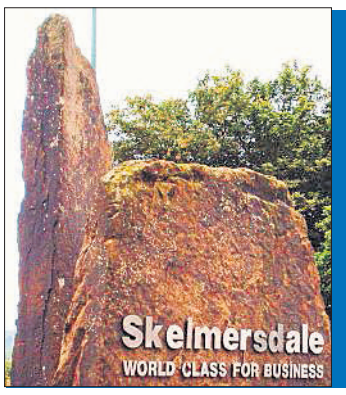
Charity chief reports back from Nepal



Local businesses in running for awards

FAMILY MOURNS 'OUR BEAUTIFUL BOY'

Tragic end to search for teenager missing after barn blaze

Report by **Danielle Thompson**

THE devastated family of a teenager who died after a raging blaze at a barn in West Lancashire where he was playing with friends have paid tribute to their 'beautiful boy.'

Officers from Lancashire Constabulary and the West Lancs Fire and Rescue Service had launched a desperate two-day search for 14-year-old Louis James Simpson who had not been seen since the fire broke out at the barn at Fairhurst Hall in Chorley Road, Parbold at around 3pm on Sunday (January 29).

Following extensive searches of the barn - which was filled with around 250 tons of straw - and the surrounding area, the body of the youngster, from Parbold, was found in the building on Monday evening (January 30).

The tragic discovery prompted a number of touching tributes to Louis, a pupil at Merchant Taylors' School, Crosby.

His family, who are being supported by specially trained police officers, said: "It is with deep regret and heartbreak that we can confirm the tragic loss of our beautiful, beautiful boy.

" We are all truly devastated but want to thank our amazing family and friends for their ongoing love and support."

Emergency services vehicles at the approach to the scene of the fire

Former Liverpool and England footballer Jamie Carragher, a friend of the family, said: "Absolutely devastated as a family about the news about Louis, remember a cracking footballer for the school, holidaying with the family in Ibiza and staying over for his and James' birthday. Most of all a great kid. Rest in peace son, you'll never be forgotten."

A spokesperson for Merchant Taylors' said that a book of remembrance has been made available at the school, and added: "Louis was a popular boy and known to many of our pupils. Our school community is in deep shock and we will be providing the appropriate support, advice and counselling for pupils, staff and parents over the coming days and weeks."

Appliances from Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service's Ormskirk, Skelmersdale, and Tarleton stations attended the blaze, along with firefighters from Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service.

They spent more than three hours extinguishing the fire using breathing apparatus and two jets.

At the time of the Champion going to press Chorley Road was still closed from The Common to Robin Lane.

Louis Simpson

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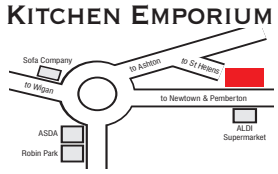

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County's children's centres given Baby Friendly Award

CHILDREN centres in the county have received international recognition from UNICEF (the United Nations' Children's Fund) by being awarded the prestigious Baby Friendly Award - thanks to support from Lancashire Care's infant feeding team.

Set up by UNICEF and the World Health Organisation (WHO), the Baby Friendly Initiative is a global programme that provides a practical and effective way for health services to improve care provided to mothers and babies.

And following intense assessment by UNICEF, the county's children's centres were recognised for having best practice standards in infant feeding in place.

To celebrate the success and recognise Lancashire Care's children and family health service's support in securing full BFI accreditation, members of the trust's infant feeding team organised three partnership celebration events, with the first held last Thursday (January 26) at the First Steps Children's Centre in Skelmersdale.

Katie Wharton, infant feeding co-ordinator at Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust, said: "UNICEF UK's Baby Friendly Initiative is crucial in increasing breastfeeding rates, it also aims to ensure optimal feeding practices and build loving relationship for parents and their babies.

Members of Lancashire Care's infant feeding team celebrate the award with County Councillor Nikki Hennessy

"Breastfeeding protects babies against a wide range of serious illnesses including gastroenteritis and respiratory infections in infancy, as well as asthma, cardiovascular disease and diabetes in later life.

"We also know that breastfeeding reduces a mother's risk of some cancers."

UNICEF UK assessed the infant feeding policies at the children's centres along with the training curriculums and resources used with mothers and families.

They also attended the centres and groups, interviewed staff and spoke to more than 50 families.

BFI assessors commented in their assessment report that "it is clear the services support mothers with infant feeding and developing close and loving relationships with their baby in ways which are sensitive and effective."

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Town's 'magnificent seven' in running for county business awards

SEVEN Skelmersdale-based companies have been announced as finalists in a county-wide business awards scheme.

The seven - Direct365, Sustainable Building Services, the Hub pharmacy, Laila's Fine Foods, Chemist-4-U, Fairbanks Environmental, and Mellors Catering Services - were all included in the shortlist for this year's Red Rose Awards.

The categories for which they have been nominated were as follows: Sustainable Building Services (construction); The Hub pharmacy (Health and Care); Mellors Catering Services (large business); Laila's Fine Foods (manufacturing); Chemists-4-U (medium and online); Direct365 (online); and Fairbanks Environmental (skills and training).

Successful businesses were announced after a day of rigorous prescoring, whittling down the entries to just six finalists for each of the 25 categories.

The finalists will now face an interview and presentation stage across a further two judging days at Blackburn Rovers Football Club.

Seven business based in Skelmersdalehave been named as finalists in the Red Rose Awards

And the winners will be revealed at a glittering awards ceremony at Blackpool's Winter Gardens on Thursday, March 9.

Around 70 judges, made up of sponsors, business leaders and independent experts, assessed hundreds of written entries to name the finalists.

Judges said the decisions during the scoring of written entries were tougher, the stories bigger and the achievements greater than ever before.

Richard Slater, publisher of Lancashire Business View magazine, which organises the awards, said: "The competition this year was exceptional; our judges had a difficult task.

"We are excited at once again bringing the county together at the Winter Gardens on March 9 to celebrate the success of Lancashire business, form new relationships and have a fantastic night."

Dr John Lonsdale, director of innovation and enterprise at UCLan, judging partner for the Red Rose Awards 2017, added: "Following last year's strong entries it is great to see those standards being maintained, with another great crop of businesses showing what they can do. Judging has been a real challenge.

"It is inspiring to see Lancashire businesses growing, creating jobs and innovating across the county. The awards evening is sure to be a great event for all concerned."

United sack long-serving boss

SKELMERSDALE United have sacked long-serving manager, Tommy Lawson after nearly 11 years in the post.

The news was announced in a statement on the club website which read: 'On Thursday evening (January 26) Skelmersdale United manager Tommy Lawson met with chairman Paul Griffiths, the result of the meeting was that Tommy Lawson left his position as manager of the club.'

Assistant manager Tony Sullivan and coach Dom Finnigan have also left the club.

Skem are currently at the foot of the Evo-Stik League Premier division and without a win this year.

Former Premier League player, Alan Rogers, has been named as the new manager.

Lawson joined the club in June 2006. In 2013 the side won the Northern Premier League Division One North and gained promotion to the Northern Premier League Premier Division.

Tommy Lawson

The 66-year-old has also managed Prescot Cables, Droylsden, Clitheroe, Congleton, Stantondale and Warrington Town.

● *Full story in Sport*

Skem dog owner is first in borough to be fined for failing to have pet microchipped

A PET owner from Skelmersdale who refused to have his dog microchipped is the first to be taken to court by West Lancashire Borough Council following changes in the law.

New legislation came into force on April 6 last year making it compulsory for dogs in England to be microchipped and for owners' details to be kept up to date on the chip. Owners who fail to comply with the regulations can be fined up to £500.

Wigan Magistrates Court heard how Brett Clarkson's dog, Tyson had been collected by the council's contractor while out straying in the Skelmersdale area in the summer of 2016. The cross-breed type dog was not microchipped when it was picked up.

When Clarkson, of Elswick, Skelmersdale, collected his pet from the council's contractor on August 20, he refused an offer to have Tyson microchipped for a small charge.

The council served a notice on Clarkson giving him 21 days to get Tyson microchipped and provide proof to the council this had been done. Clarkson did not comply with this notice leading to the council taking legal action against him.

Clarkson did not attend court and was found guilty in his absence. He was fined £220, and ordered to pay a £30 victim surcharge and £364.10 in costs. In total Clarkson's failure to microchip his dog has cost him £614.10 which must be paid within 28 days.

Microchipping is a failsafe way to ensure if your pet is lost it can be re-united with you. Many vets and pet shops provide this at a small charge.

The council has teamed up with the Dogs Trust to offer free microchipping for dogs at Greenhill Community Hub, Beech Close, Skelmersdale, on Tuesday, March 7, between 11am and 3pm. This will be on a first come-first served basis and the last dog will be chipped at 3pm. These events are very popular so there may be long queues.

Councillor Kevin Wright, West Lancs Council's portfolio holder for health and community safety, said: "This prosecution by the council shows its commitment to promoting responsible dog ownership and welfare within the borough. I would encourage anyone who hasn't had their dog microchipped to take advantage of the free microchipping event on March 7.

"Dog owners should also note it is a legal requirement for dogs in England to wear an identity disc at all times when in a public place."

Further information on responsible dog ownership can be found by visiting www.westlancs.gov.uk/dogs

Assault victim claims lack of support after court case

Report by **Henry James**

A WOMAN who was assaulted by her former boyfriend has accused the authorities of failing to support her following the court case.

Tracey Pilling, 52, from Skelmersdale, says she feels let down by the Crown Prosecution Service, the police and The Liberty Centre (formerly West Lancashire Women's Refuge).

She also hit out at the sentence after the man was given a 12-month community order with a requirement to complete 15 days rehabilitation activity and 60 hours unpaid work.

He was also ordered to pay £620 costs, £200 compensation and £85 victim surcharge. And the CPS applied for a 12-month restraining order prohibiting him from contacting the victim or going to her address, which was imposed by the court.

However, Tracey described the sentence as "a slap on the wrist."

She said: "I only received a letter from the CPS after Christmas. If I had not rung the court, I would not have known the outcome straight away.

"The Liberty Centre helped me during the case but they have abandoned me since. I have not had a call from them. I feel now is the time when you need the support. I have heard nothing from the police either. It seems that after the case you are just left to deal with things yourself.

"I am also gutted by the sentence and feel angry with the outcome. He has received a slap on the wrist, while my life has been turned upside down."

Tracey Pilling

A CPS spokesperson said: "We take all cases of domestic violence extremely seriously and in the North West Area nearly 80% of defendants who are charged with domestic violence are convicted.

"In this case we did provide regular updates to the victim throughout the case as it came to trial, and contacted her about the support that was available to her at court and from other agencies.

"The Witness Care Unit wrote to her as soon as it was notified of the sentence result from court on December 21 to inform her of the outcome in the case and to offer further help and support, but unfortunately it appears that the victim did not receive this letter through the post until several days later.

"We are sorry that she did not receive the update about the sentence as quickly as we would have liked."

The police and the Liberty Centre declined to comment on the matter.

SCA to invest £14.3m at Pimbo Road site

LEADING global hygiene and forest products company SCA is to invest £14.3 million in its Skelmersdale site.

In a statement the Swedish company said they were investing in a through-air drying (TAD) machine at its tissue plant in Pimbo Road, "to meet the growing demand for high-quality tissue and strengthen the product offering in the UK."

The announcement was made as the firm said it was closing an older tissue machine at its Stubbins mill in Bury and plans to sell its tissue plant in Chesterfield to Sidcot Group Limited.

A spokesman for SCA said: "These measures are part of SCA's Tissue Roadmap and are aligned with the company's strategy to streamline production and secure capacity for future growth to increase value creation in the Tissue business area.

"These initiatives are subject to customary consultation with employee representations."

Skelmersdale has become SCA's second largest tissue production site in Europe for the 'away-from-home' professional market – producing Tork-label products for major customers including local authorities, the NHS, hotel chains and motorway services. Around 80% of production at the site is for the away-from-home market.

SCA is one of the largest consumer tissue firms in the UK and its household brands include Plenty, Velvet and Cushelle.

In 2015 the company invested millions of pounds in the UK creating 140 more jobs at its Skelmersdale mill and a new distribution centre in Ashton-in-Makerfield. The investment at Skelmersdale doubled site output and increased the workforce to 286.

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Brownies meet the mayor

YOUNGSTERS from the 4th Ormskirk Brownies enjoyed a visit to the West Lancs Council offices in Derby Street to meet the mayor, Councillor Liz Savage and learn more about the civic role and its special responsibilities

Members of the 4th Ormskirk (Green Lane) Brownies with the mayor

Pumping station closure plan likely to be put back a year, says MP

CONTROVERSIAL plans to turn off a satellite pumping station in Alt Crossens are likely to be pushed back a year, according to West Lancs MP Rosie Cooper.

Ms Cooper met floods minister, Therese Coffey last week to discuss flooding issues and threats faced by communities across the borough.

During the meeting the minister indicated that legislative changes on land drainage needed to be brought to Parliament by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and as consequence the initial deadline of the end of 2017 to turn off five satellite pumping stations will need to be extended to the end of 2018. It is expected more detail will emerge in the coming weeks.

During the meeting Ms Cooper emphasised the need for more focus on the prevention of flooding, including the capacity of the water and sewer network, the impact of new housing developments, the future of local pumping stations and the need for a water management board.

She said: "I very much welcome the news of the likely deadline extension for turning off the satellite pumping stations in the Alt-Crossens catchment. It still doesn't deliver a solution but it offers more time to continue the discussions.

"We need to see if this new piece of legislation the minister will bring forward will offer more opportunities for us to resolve future land drainage and water management arrangements in West Lancashire.

"The minister certainly listened and understands the issues and people's fears. However, I and West Lancashire residents will only judge her and the government on her actions to give flood prevention greater priority and more investment to deliver much-needed solutions."

Rosie Cooper and the minister Therese Coffey

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Bob's musical fundraiser to say 'thanks' to hospice

A SKELMERSDALE man who has become a dedicated supporter of the hospice which looked after his dying wife five years ago is set to stage his latest fundraising effort.

Bob Carrington was so grateful for the care his late wife Bernadette received at Queenscourt Hospice that he wanted to do something to show his appreciation and has raised more than £3,000 for the charity over the last four years.

The 83-year-old's latest fundraising event is a musical evening to be held at St Theresa's Parish Hall, Up Holland on Friday, February 10 starting at 7.30pm. Among the artists appearing on the night will be David Ashley, a Frank Sinatra tribute act, who has performed at Las Vegas and local band Deacon.

Bob, from Old Skelmersdale, said: "I have held an event every year for the last four years. We usually raise around £400 or £500 for Queenscourt and last year we managed to collect £800.

"My wife was really looked after by the nurses at Queencourt who provided 24-hour support. I started the fundraising to give something back in return. I collect all year for Queenscourt in places like Aldi and Asda. In June 2013 I managed to collect a wonderful £1,240 for the hospice."

Tickets for this year's musical event are priced £10 and include a hot-pot supper. Residents in Up Holland wanting tickets can ring 01695 623380, while Skelmersdale residents can contact 01695 726190. Arrangements can be made for tickets to be delivered.

Skem charity chief reports back from visit to Nepal on devastating effects of climate change

Report by **Henry James**

THE chairman of a Skelmersdale-based charity set up to address the plight of children in a developing country living in poverty has just returned from a visit to see how climate change is having a devastating effect on lives there.

Keith Laycock's son Jeremy set up Resvolve International after volunteering in Nepal to address the plight of children living in poverty who were unable to attend school, worked in dangerous occupations and did not have enough food.

Working in partnership with non-governmental organisations in the South Asian country, the charity seeks to develop budgets and deliver projects to benefit local children through improved sanitation and access to primary education.

Since its formation in 2006, Resolve International has provided almost 750 toilets to rural families, women's groups and schools in Nepal.

However, despite their efforts Nepal still faces many problems, including the damaging consequences of climate change and flooding.

Keith Laycock witnessed this for himself during his recent visit. He said: "The mountains, which usually have permanent snow caps, had been black rock until the week before I arrived.

"Nepal is dependent on melt water from the snow-capped mountains and the glaciers but they are rapidly disappearing. The melt water keeps people, animals and crops alive and also produces hydro-electricity for the country.

"Nepal is used to monsoon rains, but last year the rains were exceptional and most of Western Nepal was subject to flooding and landslides. Hundreds of people lost their lives, others lost their homes and schools were destroyed.

Keith Laycock pictured with a local mother and child during his visit to Nepal

"We appealed to local people here in West Lancashire to help us provide a new roof for one school in the affected area and raised enough money to buy corrugated sheets to cover new temporary classrooms."

The commanding officer at the Nepal Army barracks in Baglung District told Keith that transporting relief aid by road proved impossible during the floods. Landslides had destroyed sections of the roads and other dirt tracks were deep in mud so the army had to use helicopters to get goods to the worst affected villages.

But earthquakes, floods and other natural disasters are not the only problems in the country. Lack of sanitation is still a major issue in Nepal, resulting in illness and the deaths of hundreds of young children each year.

Keith added: "We have just completed another 165 toilets for rural families. I have just returned from walking the hills of Baglung District in Western Nepal where we have been supporting families for the past decade.

"The steep-sided 'hills' lie at altitudes of 2 to 3,000 metres. I can't imagine how the families carry all the stone, cement and other materials across these hills to their homes - it's exhausting just walking up and down the trails."

During his trip Keith also visited one of the schools which benefited from funds raised by Aughton Male Voice Choir.

Member Paul Dickie from Lathom was in Kathmandu when the first big earthquake struck in 2015 and was determined to help some of the people whose lives were devastated by the disaster.

The £775 raised at a concert in Ormskirk Parish Church provided teaching materials to 10 schools in Bhimpokhara, where Resolve International began its work in 2006.

"The school I visited was also rebuilding two classrooms which were damaged in the earthquakes," added Keith.

For more information on the work of Resolve International or to support their efforts go to the website www.resolveinternational.org.

Muddy marvels... Anthony at Mar Menor with his fellow 'Spice Girls'

Ex-pat Anthony still making a splash on TV

FORMER Skelmersdale resident Anthony Horadada has once again featured in an episode of the Channel 5 TV programme Bargain-Loving Brits In The Sun.

The 32-year-old who moved to Spain six years ago and now runs keep-fit and aqua aerobics classes for ex-pats called Ant's Fat Fighters, took the four women who had helped him stage a Spice Girls tribute as part of a Best of British street party, to Mar Menor, the largest salt water lake in Europe.

Anthony, who left the UK to escape a life of drug dependency, organised the trip to the lake as a surprise day out to thank the ladies for their efforts at the party held to help him raise 500 Euros to pay his rent.

Mar Menor is famous for its mud, which is said to contains minerals believed to have restorative healing powers. One of the ladies suffers from arthritis while another is recovering from cancer. They also visited a pink salt pool.

Anthony initially feared the trip had not been a success, commenting: "I can't believe I have brought the girls on a blind-folded mystery tour and they look deflated. Why did I bring them here?"

However the day ended on a more positive note as he commented: "It's been really nice to see all the girls back together and to see them relaxed as well. I have had so much fun with them today."

Big Lottery cash boost for community projects

SUPPORTERS of two community projects in Skelmersdale are celebrating after being granted donations from the Big Lottery Fund.

The Friends of Hillside Community Primary School's Making Ourselves Heard project were awarded £10,000, while the E Rooms in Westgate has been given £6,050.

The pair were among 95 projects across the region which shared almost£2.3m in the latest round of grant awards.

The Friends of Hillside group is made up of parents, teaching assistants, teachers, former pupils, extended family members and governors of the school in Egerton, Tanhouse.

They will use the funding to deliver a range of activities including craft and digital media, and a programme of trips for pre-school children and their parents who are non-English speaking.

It is hoped this will improve communication and language skills with the aim of addressing social isolation.

The E Rooms, a not-for-profit social enterprise serving the West Lancs community, will use the funding to run music workshops focusing on digital recording, composition, production and performance of music aimed at young people in the local area.

A spokesman for the group said: "This will raise aspirations, confidence and self-esteem and improve access to activities with the aim of improving community cohesion."

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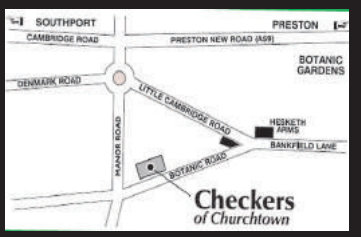

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Carl 'warms up' for marathon bid with 15-mile slog at freezing Wigan!

Report by **Henry James**

SKEM Men-Aces' manager Carl Eaton has stepped up his training for his attempt at the forthcoming Greater Manchester Marathon by tackling a 15-mile 'warm-up' at Wigan's Robin Park Sports Arena.

Spina Bifida sufferer Carl is bidding to raise £10,000 in sponsorship by completing the gruelling 26-mile event on Sunday, April 2 to finance an adventure weekend for members of his disability football team.

After combating wet and windy conditions to successfully negotiate his Wigan training stint, wheelchair-bound Carl commented on his social media website: "Today has been a very special one in my life. It was an afternoon of awful weather and I was full of doubt. But, in the company of Miriam Eaton, James Lloyd, Stephen Rimmer, Theo Duke, Graham Scott, Shaun Penc, Jack Winstanley, Paul Hutton and Andrew Hunt, I've managed to smash 15 miles.

"I am really starting to believe that I will crack the Greater Manchester Marathon."

To date, Carl has already received pledges of more than £1,000 of his target sponsorship figure.

Wife, Mim, added: "Since we started training we have encountered many hurdles, overcome many challenges and we've not had a day yet when it's not been raining and ice forming on our eyelashes!

● LEFT: Have wheels will roll...Carl Eaton pictured tackling his 15-mile training stint at Wigan's Robin Park Sports Arena with a little help from his friends

"The training has given us horrendous blisters but we battled through the pain and managed to hit 15 miles in just under three hours.

"We are hoping to raise enough funds to enable us to take Skem Men-Aces Disability FC on an adventure weekend in August as it was recognised that the majority of the lads have never been on holiday before. "These lads have gone on and done some wonderful things to help raise funds and awareness for other charities, so we are now hopefully going to be able to treat them back in return."

Carl set up the Skem Men-aces Football Club in 2009 for adults with a learning disability.

Today the side has more than 50 members and he said: "I am constantly inspired by these guys every week and at every game. Their levels of good humour, non-stop banter and sportsmanship should be shown to a few professional teams.

"It makes me so sad that with a limited income, based around a few benefits, most of these lads have never enjoyed a decent holiday."

For more information about Carl's charity marathon bid go to website www.eatonupthemiles.org.

Plea for information on teen assault

POLICE are appealing for information after a teenager was struck on the back of the head by an unknown object thrown by a member of a gang in Flamstead, Birch Green on Monday, January 23.

The 17-year-old victim and a friend were walking past St John's Catholic Primary School between 8.30pm and 8.45pm when they were followed by a gang of about 10 people.

One of the gang made a comment to the teenager just before the attack.

The offender is described as 6ft 3ins, with a slender build. He was wearing a jacket, black track suit bottoms and had his face covered.

Anyone with information is asked to call 101.

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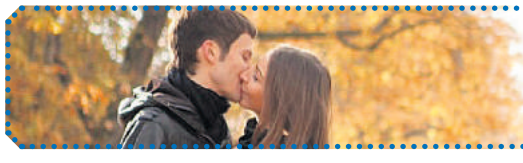

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Where there's a will there's a . . . helping hand for good causes!

A FIRM of solicitors in Ormskirk have raised more than £7,000 for good causes by allowing customers to make a will for free in return for a donation to charity.

The team at Dickinson Parker Hill Solicitors in Derby Street took part in Charity Will Month, an initiative which supports a number of local causes and British charities.

The total they raised has been split evenly, with £3,554 each being donated to The Civic (formerly Ormskirk Civic Hall) on Southport Road and national charity, the Alzheimer's Society.

Since 2009, the firm has raised more than £80,000 for local and national good causes through Charity Will Month.

A spokesperson for Dickinson Parker Hill explained why the firm had opted to support these two particular causes this time.

"Many of our clients and staff have been affected by Alzheimer's and we wanted to help with an issue that directly affects those connected with the firm.

"Also, the firm decided to support Ormskirk Civic Hall as this is now run by volunteers in the heart of Ormskirk and funds are needed to help maintain the building and provide a community space in the town centre."

The team from Dickinson Parker Hill solicitors with their cheques for The Civic and the Alzheimer's Society

Partner, Michael Prendergast, added: "The scheme allows local people to get their affairs in order and ensure loved ones are protected, at the same time as benefiting local and national charities.

"We were happy to help both charities this year as many of our clients and staff have been affected by Alzheimer's and we also wanted to help The Civic.

"As always, we have been thrilled with the response to Charity Will Month which has been very well supported."

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Alan Lewis (left) and fellow veterans at the stand in the Concourse

Veterans raise more than £4,000 for Legion

MEMBERS of the Skelmersdale Veterans Association raised more than £4,000 for this year's Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.

Officials of the group, Harry McKenzie, Alan Lewis MBE, Alan Moore and Gary Simpson, have announced the final total of proceeds from their stall at the Concourse shopping centre and other fundraising efforts at £4,145.

Alan Lewis said: "We had a great time listening to older veterans' stories of their services over the years in different conflicts. We also enjoyed meeting their grandchildren. The veterans engaged with some of the young people by letting them wear their medals.

"We would like to thank the management of the Concourse Shopping Centre for allowing us to collect in the centre and also the shoppers who gave to the appeal."

This year the Royal British Legion is asking the nation to rethink remembrance by recognising the sacrifices made not just by the armed forces of the past but by today's generation too.

Alan added: "For many people remembrance is associated with the First and Second World Wars. But while we will always remember them, the legion also want to raise awareness of a new generation of veterans and service personnel."

Meanwhile the Skelmersdale Veterans Association, based at the Hare & Hounds public house in Ormskirk Road, is also hoping that people might donate medals, photographs and old uniforms belonging to loved ones who have passed away to be included in the events they run.

Also, any former or serving members of the armed forces, men and women, are welcome to go along to the association's meetings on every second Sunday of the month at the Hare & Hounds from 2pm.

For more information contact Alan Lewis at alan.say@hotmail.co.uk.

School songsters aiming to hit the high notes in prestigious competition

A TEAM of talented young songsters from Skelmersdale are set to go head-to-head with some of the best school choirs in Lancashire in the first round heats of the prestigious 'Last Choir Singing' competition.

The 18-strong choir from Little Digmoor Primary School, whose ages range from six to 11, will be performing on Thursday, March 16 at the Marine Hall, Fleetwood where they will be competing for the accolade of regional heat winner and the chance to move a step closer to the coveted title of 'Last Choir Singing 2017 Winner'.

Last year they took home the title of 'Most Artistic' in their heat and are looking forward to giving another sterling performance this time around.

In the heat they will be up against schools from Fleetwood, St Annes on Sea, Poulton-le-Fylde, Lancaster and Lytham.

Dave Paton, headteacher at the school in Abbeystead, said: "We are thrilled to be taking part in the Last Choir Singing competition again. The children are so excited about their trip to Fleetwood and to be performing on stage at the Marine Hall. They have been rehearsing very hard.

"Singing in the choir is a wonderful experience and brings so many benefits, from team working and discipline to confidence building.

"It allows children to express themselves artistically and really improves their self-worth. A competition like this provides a fantastic opportunity for our children to perform in front of a large audience."

The Little Digmoor choir with choir master, Ilona Healy

Last Choir Singing was launched in 2014 by True Bearing Chartered Financial Planners and has been an amazing success. The company wanted to raise awareness of singing in junior schools and to demonstrate that music education is alive and well.

George Critchley, chairman of True Bearing, said: "We set up the competition to get schools involved and enjoying the fun and camaraderie of singing in a choir. The competition is a fantastic way for us to connect with talented choirs across Lancashire and we can't wait to hear those performing in the heat on March 16."

Heats are taking place across Lancashire throughout March with winners going through to the Grand Final at King Georges Hall, Blackburn on June 16.

Tickets for the heat on March 16 can be purchased via the Marine Hall Box Office on 01253 887693 or via their website at www.wyretheatres.co.uk and cost £7 for standard tickets and £6 for concessions.

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Forum seeks solutions to tackle flood threat

A FLOOD risk charity is holding a conference today (February 1) on how to create flood-resistant communities.

The National Flood Forum, which represents individuals and communities at risk of flooding, is hosting the conference in London to explore concerns including how communities and businesses being built now will be flood resilient in the future and how to reduce flood risk in existing communities.

It is hoped the results of the findings could help residents across West Lancashire after the borough was badly hit by the 2015 Boxing Day floods.

Paul Cobbing, chief executive of the National Flood Forum, said: "We need to take action to ensure we're creating and building flood-resilient communities for today and for 30 years time. We need to get the planners, developers and communities together to discuss the challenges and consider different approaches and we must set out our ambition now if we are to protect more communities in the future."

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Laura presents the cheque for Dog AID to Deborah Cornwall and husband John

Laura's canine calendar raises £860 for assistance dogs charity

A CHANCE meeting in a coffee shop inspired a West Lancashire businesswoman to raise £860 for a charity which trains assistance dogs.

Laura Abrams, who runs Furry Tails Professional Dog Grooming Service in Tarleton, decided to do her bit for Dog AID (Assistance in Disability) after meeting former local high school teacher Deborah Cornwall last year.

Wheelchair-user Deborah from Hesketh Bank, who suffered damage to her spinal cord in a climbing accident in North Wales, was with her assistance dog Dillon which prompted the two women to strike up a conversation.

Deborah explained how the charity provides disabled people with a trainer who teaches them to train their dog to assistance level and can help them with jobs around the home, enabling the dog owner to live independently at home with their helper dog.

Laura then decided to create a calendar featuring photos of her clients' dogs adorning the different months, with all proceeds and donations going to Dog AID.

Road closed after vehicles' collision

A ROAD in Halsall had to be closed for about three hours following a collision involving a tractor and Audi car on Wednesday, January 25. The incident occurred at around 2pm near to Renacres Hospital. Renacres Lane was closed at the junction with Heathy Lane while emergency services made the scene safe. The driver of the tractor was uninjured but a woman occupant of the Audi, was taken to hospital with minor injuries.

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New housing chief aims to improve tenant services

WEST Lancs Council's new housing chief says she is relishing the role and aims to make the authority's services even better for tenants.

Jacqui Sinnott-Lacey, who has been appointed director of housing and inclusion, brings a strong track record of leading and managing housing services to the role, including delivering housing-led regeneration.

She has more than 25 years' experience in housing with her most recent role being executive director with Peaks & Plains Housing Trust, a high-performing housing association operating services across Cheshire and the North West.

Jacqui led the team to many awards and a top 20 ranking in The Times 100 best companies. Other achievements included delivering affordable new homes programmes across Cheshire and High Peak and major investment programmes.

Prior to this she worked for organisations in Cheshire, Merseyside and Manchester, including a number of councils.

Improving homes and enhancing and revitalising areas are key objectives of the Council Plan and Jacqui says she is very excited about her new role.

She said: "I have always been extremely passionate about the need to provide good quality housing and excellent services for customers. This is a great time to join West Lancashire Borough Council, as there is so much ambition to deliver fantastic and innovative plans right across the borough.

"Tenants are already reaping the benefits of the council's record investment in its housing stock, and the Firbeck Revival Project is a great example of how estates can be made even better places to live.

"I am sure the Beechtrees Revival Project, which includes a number of new homes, will also be a great success.

"The council is also looking into the possibility of forming a new development company which could help in the delivery of housing and commercial schemes to benefit the social and economic well-being of the borough.

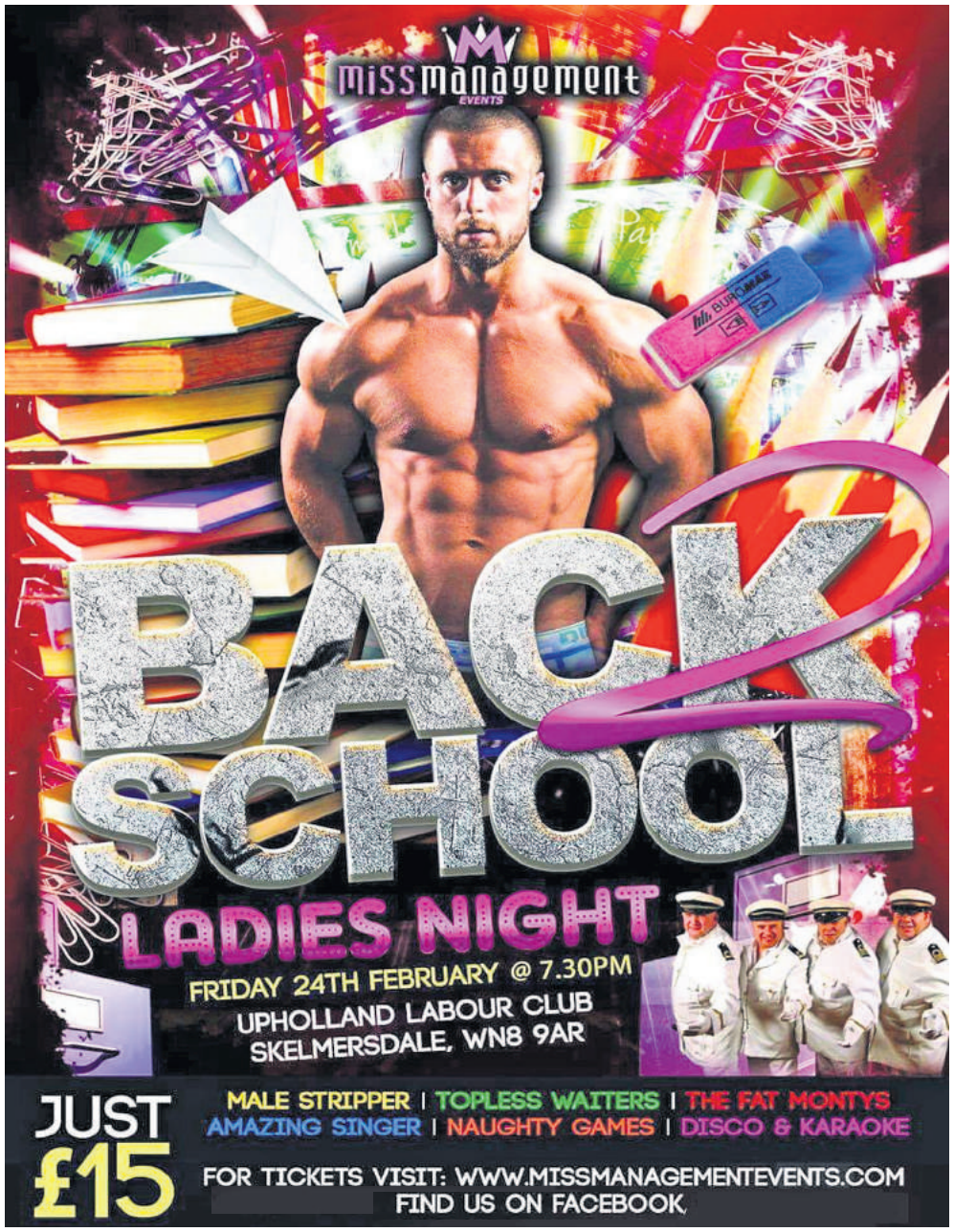
"I am also looking forward to working with councillors, staff, and in partnership with customers and local organisations to make sure we make the best use of our resources, and ensure the council's housing service continues to provide value for money.

"I will be listening to tenants' views on how we can improve housing services and I particularly want to hear from younger tenants, to get them involved in housing."

Outside of work mum-of-four Jacqui is involved in charities supporting young people's issues.

Councillor Jenny Patterson, the council's portfolio holder for housing and landlord services, said: "Jacqui is an excellent recruit for the council as she brings a lot of skills and experience to the role of director. I am looking forward to working with her at this exciting time for the authority."

Councillor Jenny Patterson welcomes Jacqui



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Breathe Easy group pays tribute to founder member Irene

THE first meeting of 2017 saw the West Lancashire and Southport Breathe Easy Group honour a founder member and embrace new technology!

Mike McKevitt, head of patient services at the British Lung Foundation, joined the group to set up a video conference link between the meeting at the Girl Guide HQ in Green Lane, Ormskirk, and the foundation's National Helpline, based at their Liverpool office.

Mike McKevitt presents the award to Irene Norman

The BLF is hoping to perfect this technology so that Breathe Easy Groups throughout the country, including those in quite isolated areas, can access expert advice.

Patricia Ireland from the West Lancashire and Southport group, said: "We were in effect acting as 'guinea pigs' to help the BLF perfect the technical side of things.

"Vicky Barber, the BLF nurse manager, spoke to us first through the video link, giving us very useful advice about the current flu outbreak.

"She explained that the flu jabs we all had last autumn were the best that could be given at the time, but are always guesswork, as no-one can know for sure what strain of virus will be doing the rounds the following winter.

"If anyone with respiratory illness develops flu-like symptoms, they are eligible for 'Tamiflu' to ward off the worst of the illness and should contact their GP.

"She also gave us really good advice about disease transmission and the importance of hand washing and use of alcoholic wipes to clean our hands.

"Later, Leah from the BLF helpline also spokes to us via the video link about relevant non-means-tested benefits. It was really interesting to receive this information 'direct' and be able to see and ask questions of the BLF Helpline!"

Mike McKevitt then presented an award to Irene Norman from Up Holland, the founder member of the group and long-time chairperson until 2014, when she handed over to current chairman, Harry Thacker.

The award recognised not only all she had done in founding and leading the local group in Ormskirk and Southport for so many years, but also what she continues to do nationally for the British Lung Foundation.

Patricia added: "Irene's efforts for the BLF are continuing, magnificent and outstanding. She goes out to help start up new Breathe Easy groups, sits in on interview panels for BLF recruitment...you name it, our amazing local lady continues to show that we in the North West of England are prepared to work full-on to help our local communities as unpaid volunteers!"

Next meeting of the group will be held at the usual venue, Green Lane Guide HQ, next door to the Ormskirk Rugby Club, on Monday, February 20 when a representative from Age UK will be the guest speaker. The meeting will run from 11.30am to about 12.30pm and free light refreshments will be served from 11am.

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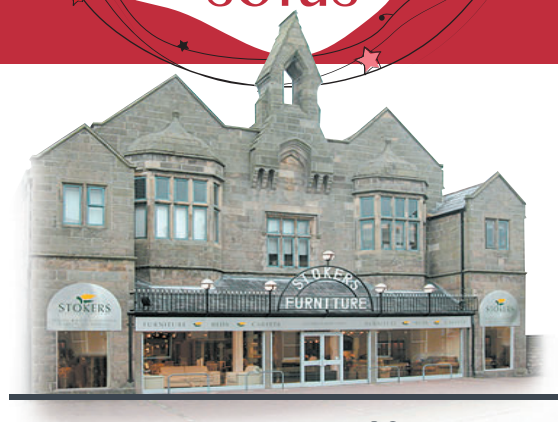

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Lancashire Care psychiatrist appointed to prestigious post

DOCTOR Bernadka Dubicka, a consultant child and adolescent psychiatrist with the Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust, has been appointed chair of the Faculty of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at the prestigious Royal College of Psychiatrists.

She will take up the post on June 27.

Currently vice-chair of the faculty and an honorary reader in child mental health at the University of Manchester, Dr Dubicka has been with the trust since 2007 working in the child and adolescent mental health service.

She said: "I am delighted to have been appointed chair of this important committee.

"The faculty exists to promote, through the work of its members the mental wellbeing of young people and their families. This includes promoting training, exchanging experience and research, influencing public policies, promoting mental health awareness through working with the media and organising regular national conferences and local meetings."

After qualifying in medicine at University College London and also achieving a degree in psychology, she completed her training in child psychiatry in Manchester.

Dr Dubicka also acts as an advisor on child and adolescent mental health research funding to the National Institute of Health Research and is a clinical advisor for the North West Strategic Clinical Network (SCN) where she is a project lead for developing guidance for self-harm admission pathways.

In 2010 she received a rare gold medal award from the University of Manchester in recognition of the completion of her thesis on depression and behaviour disorder.

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Champion LETTERS to the Editor

Clare House, 166 Lord Street, Southport PR9 0QA
tel 01704 392 400 email editor@champnews.com

Ormskirk deserves a fair share of county's investment in highways

IN response to the letter from Maurice George (Champion, January 18) and his claim that 'normally traffic flows smoothly through the centre' of Ormskirk, it can only be supposed that his experience is confined to the journeys he mentioned in his previous letter to me when referring to cycling into the town centre and ignoring the bylaws against doing so in the pedestrian areas.

Mr George had taken issue with a leaflet I distributed for the forthcoming Lancashire County Council elections but what he did not mention was that he has been a candidate for the Green Party and appears to oppose investment in our roads.

My leaflet highlighted the abject failure of the present Labour administration to address the problems of traffic congestion in Ormskirk.

The congestion is strangling the town centre and severely impacting on the shops and businesses as it makes Ormskirk a place for motorists to avoid.

The orbital route around the town centre and the major junctions are not fit for purpose and have been starved of investment.

These junctions and the failure to co-ordinate the various sets of traffic signals make the daily rush-hour journeys of people trying to get to work or drop their children off at our schools a nightmare.

Traffic is pushed off the major roads and uses various 'rat runs' as well as the secondary roads through our residential and rural areas.

In 2014, Labour scrapped the Conservative plan for a by-pass, permanently removed the protection for the planned route and sold off a property at a huge loss to the taxpayers.

They have failed to deliver on the Movement Strategy promised for last year and have deferred publication until after the election.

Derby Street's railway bridge was identified as having structural problems and needs major investment but Labour's solution was the imposition of an unenforced weight restriction.

I stand by my leaflet and will continue to campaign for the important issues it highlighted as I firmly believe the residents of Ormskirk deserve a fair share of the county's considerable investment in highways.

County Councillor David Westley,
West Lancashire East Division

Why are council letting us become a ghost town?

WHY is Ormskirk being left by the local authority to become 'Edge Hill University Town Centre'?

It is now impossible to buy any decent clothes, electrical items or many other essential day-to-day items.

Many of the town centre shops have gone over the past 10 years and what was once a thriving town is now rapidly becoming a ghost town.

Two more town-centre shops have gone this week, the Cheque Shop and Waterfield's long-established bakery. Even the famous Ormskirk Market is a shadow of its former self.

Burscough on the other hand is experiencing vast investment and attracting new shops and even a retail park. I can only assume this is because of the hundreds of new houses programmed for that town to provide the prospective new customers.

Ormskirk is rapidly becoming the poor relative to Burscough and I don't actually think this will alter even if the new Grove Farm houses are built.

These residents will simply jump in their cars and head for the free parking one minute up the A59 at the Burscough retail park or at the new linear park that will connect Grove Farm houses directly with the plush new retail park on the Ormskirk side of Burscough.

Mr Harrocks,
Ormskirk

PICTURE of the week

mam Soyful Alam, Reverend Stuart Broughton and Rabbi Ariel Abel chat after conducting last Sunday's Holocaust Memorial Service at Christ Church in Southport.
Picture by Martyn Snape.

If new rail station can have disabled access why not Aughton Park?

AFTER reading your article regarding the go-ahead for a new station at Maghull I can't help wondering why there has never been any concern regarding the lack of any disabled access at Aughton Park station.

I consider myself reasonably fit but even I find great difficulty with the steps and steep inclines on both sides of the track, particularly when carrying shopping or due to the weather the access is slippery and slimy.

Problems

Elderly people and those with wheelchairs or prams and push chairs have no chance!

I see this new station is boasting lifts access for the disabled along with a host of other facilities. This area has no shops within walking distance especially for those with mobility problems so public transport is a must.

Also on my way by train into Liverpool I notice all the stations on the way have lifts or easy access for people with mobility issues, so why has Aughton Park been left as it is?

Could West Lancs Council and Merseyrail not come together and find a solution to this issue?

By the way, I thought all public places had to have reasonable access for the disabled?

Mrs J. Cooper, by email

Drop us a line

■ **IF you've got a view on a topic of local or national interest which you would like to share with the readers of the Champion, why not drop us a line?**

Letters to the editor should be concise, preferably no more than 350 words, and should include the sender's name, address and contact details, although not necessarily for publication.

The editor reserves the right to edit all items submitted for favour of publication.

Correspondents preferring not to have their name and/or their address published may provide a suitable nom de plume.

Letters can be posted or emailed to the respective addresses listed at the top of this page.

PLEASE note: All views and opinions expressed in letters to the editor are solely those of the authors and are NOT necessarily endorsed or advocated in any way by Champion Newspapers.

Get your facts straight and think before you write!

RE: the three letters on the proposed Parrs Lane development (Champion, January 18) I do not understand how my brief letter of support for West Lancs Borough Council (January 11) can be taken to include so many issues beyond what was stated, but questions have been raised.

In 2012 WLBC announced the preparation of their Local Plan and in 2013 we learned of a parish council meeting to discuss elements of this, particularly the intentions relating to Parrs Lane. The expressed intention was the removal of green belt status - a feature contrary to David Cameron's promise not to do so nationwide - and to permit house development inside a 'fallback' Plan B category.

So a working group was formed and the title 'Keep Aughton Green' created. Teams of volunteers were found, many canvassing the area to advise our neighbours of the above. My wife and I called on over 200 homes and if you multiply the numbers you run into four figures.

It would have been better for the council to inform everyone with handouts, but they did run newspaper adverts encouraging everyone to see the Local Plan. We placed strategically-placed posters, many folk created their own garden placards, green ribbons were tied on many lampposts and gates around the area. We did our best to tell everyone that something was going on.

However, our best endeavours failed to change the status which is that the land is no longer green belt, but instead is 'safeguarded'. This means that if Plan A fails to address the housing needs of the community, then one or other of Plan B land will be considered with a termination date of 2027. So the working group disbanded and our services ceased.

Now I need to emphasise here that we have never been involved with any subsequent group(s) that may have formed. But we do maintain an interest in all things going on in our community and, for instance, I am a Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator for two streets.

Speculating

So why do I have to tell you all this, and why am I being attacked? I think three letters with angst must be a record.

One of you has deeply wounded me by speculating on issues you have no knowledge of. My house is built on land that was never green belt and does not oversee any sites proposed. I was approached by a developer some years ago with a view to their purchase and demolishment for access to a field behind, that he subsequently developed with access elsewhere, as I refused their substantial financial offer.

Why? Because our street would become a nightmare for my neighbours who are also my friends. I also work and head up a business that provides employment for others. I have spent most of my working life trying to help and enhance people's lifestyles, so next time you write, think about the hurt you may generate and get your facts straight.

Finally, our Ormskirk doctors practice, where getting an appointment is difficult, have advertised for months seeking additional doctors, with no success. Think about it.

Martin Pagett, Aughton

Appeal for witnesses after woman dies in horror car crash

POLICE have issued an urgent appeal for witnesses to a road traffic accident in which a 37-year-old woman died after her car hit a tree in Tarleton at the weekend.

Report by **Danielle Thompson**

The crash happened shortly before 5.30am on Sunday, January 29 at the junction of Southport New Road and Blackgate Lane on the A565.

Agnieszka Cecot from Southport was driving a Rover 75 when she apparently lost control on a slight left hand bend and collided with street signage and a tree.

She was taken by ambulance to the Royal Preston Hospital but sadly died a short time later.

Police are especially keen to speak to the driver of a foreign registered HGV which stopped at the scene to offer assistance.

Sergeant Nigel Ralphson, from Lancashire Constabulary's road policing unit, said: "This was a serious collision which has sadly cost a woman her life. I am appealing for any witnesses, or anyone with information, to contact police on 101."

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John Clarke, Principal of Southport College, said "Our new partnership places us in a fantastic position to be able to offer every Year 11 student a place on a course in Southport.

"Between the two Colleges we have a substantial curriculum offering and this year's advanced level results place KGV College and Southport College amongst the top performing colleges in the country."

King George V is holding a special Success Starts in Southport themed Open Evening on Thursday 9th February from 5-8pm. The event will encourage prospective students to plan their pathway to success with the help of inspirational guest alumni who will be on hand to talk about their achievements since studying at KGV.

Anne-Marie Francis, Acting Principal at King George V College, added "Each and every year our students gain qualifications that allow them to progress on to exciting and aspirational destinations.

"Our previous students have studied at universities across the world and many have successful careers as accountants, doctors, commercial pilots, engineers, entrepreneurs, lawyers, successful business owners and more.

"It is the quality of provision that students access here in Southport that prepares them for these future endeavours and most importantly ensures they are successful in their chosen career path."

Southport College, Merseyside's leading vocational FE College, are also hosting an Open Event the same week. The event, which will have the theme 'Find your Future Self,' will take place from 3.30-7pm on Tuesday 7th February. Both industry specialists and teaching experts will be on hand to provide advice on the wide range of courses available at Southport College and a number of different progression routes.

Start your Success in Southport by attending an Open Evening this February.

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Former farmhouse on shortlist of best places to stay in county

A BOUTIQUE hotel in Aughton is one of just four hotels to make a shortlist of the best places to stay in Lancashire as adjudged by travel experts at a national newspaper.

Local businesswomen, Yvonne Cotter and Sue Greene, who run the Birches Brow Boutique Guest Rooms in Formby Lane, were thrilled when their converted former farmhouse, which offers nine 'luxury' rooms, was named in the Daily Telegraph review.

The Aughton venue was given an overall rating of 8 out of 10 by the reviewer who added: 'A rambling farmhouse amid the rolling fields of west Lancashire, this set of boutique rooms offers a much-needed dose of quality in what is something of a boutique accommodation desert this side of Liverpool.'

The Birches Brow Boutique Guest Rooms in Aughton

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Funny how blast of chilly weather brings back warm memories...

GOSH, it's cold! Despite its best efforts, my heating system is fighting a very long battle to heat my living space and outside the wind chill factor is making life rather miserable.

Now I suspect you think this is an introduction to a diatribe about Global Warming - what Global Warming. But you'd be wrong.

I have just picked up a magazine which features the deep-freeze winter of early 1947, with some of the most severe temperatures and snowfall in any kind of recent memory.

Now I was roughly three months old when the worst of this struck in February 70 years ago and I confess I remember little of it - well, nothing in fact. But stories told me by my mum subsequently, convinced me that we've certainly suffered far, far worse than the chilly conidtions at present.

My grandparents lived in Ormskirk and grandad worked in a sawmill somewhere near Sandhills in Liverpool. But people then were, I reckon, made of sterner stuff than now. Grandad was determined to get to work but the then LMS railway was forced to bow to the weather, despite trying to run trains up and down the Ormskirk-Liverpool line all night to keep it open. The buses stood no chance.

According to my mum, the snow was so deep that it came up to the top of the parapet of the Red Lion bridge over the canal in Maghull, where she lived. So what could grandad do? Why, walk of course! Simple.

Trouble was that walking through snow drifts was more easily said than done. By the time he had walked the six miles or so from his Ormskirk home to Maghull he was just about done.

So he stayed at my mother's house until the weather cleared a bit, right? Wrong! He did stay the night and on the following morning donned his by now dried-out boots and walked into Liverpool and his work. I don't think mum ever told me how or when he got back home, but I bet he didn't miss another day's work.

I am not sure whether I regard this feat as very brave or just plain daft - but I rather suspect, though I cannot be sure, that the post for instance still managed to get delivered locally too, if somewhat late.

Perhaps having just suffered six years of total war, folk then were more used to hardship than we, in our centrally-heated, social media-connected, moaning-when-the-train-is-five-minutes late way, are. Or perhaps people had a greater sense of responsibility or simply an idea that you had a duty to get to your work if humanly possible.

Back in 1947 many people were still without landline telephones, let alone, Tweets or television. Certainly grandad couldn't have phoned his work from home - his rented house didn't even boast electricity and granny persuaded the owner to have the gas taken out because she thought it was dangerous!

My parents did boast a phone at least but grandad obviously preferred to continue his Arctic trek rather than phone in with excuses (!) as to why he couldn't make it.

Still, when he died in the early 1950s, the firm he worked for not only gave permission for those who wanted to, to attend his funeral, they even laid on a bus so they could! And he wasn't some sort of boss at the sawmill, he was an ordinary sawyer.

So perhaps responsibility and duty does cut two ways. And perhaps some of us could learn a lesson about responsibility to others, even if that means considerable inconvenience to ourselves.

Anyway, I have very fond memories of grandad. I remember him as a kind and gentle person who built two wonderful pond-racing yachts for my brother and I, and made two little wicker chairs for us which lasted well into our childhood.

Funny how one bit of rather chilly weather can bring back old memories, isn't it?

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It's good to talk...

County council reminder that advice service for young people is available all year round

YOUNG people in Lancashire are being reminded that an advice service offered by the county council over the festive period is available all year round.

Talkzone provides advice, guidance, support and information for young people between the ages of 12 and 19 and can be accessed by phone, email, text, Facebook, Twitter and webtalk.

It is also available for young people up to the age of 25 who have special educational needs or a disability.

Talkzone is provided by the county council's well-being, prevention and early help service between 2 and 10pm, every day of the year.

County Councillor Matthew Tomlinson, Lancashire's cabinet member for children, young people and schools, said: "I'm glad we have Talkzone available to help. I'm told that we received 1,061 enquiries in December alone, on a range of issues.

"Young people don't have to cope with their problems alone on any day of the year, as Talkzone is always there.

"Talkzone is staffed by caring workers who are experienced in dealing with a wide range of issues. If you're a young person and need to discuss anything, you can ring, text or email and one of our advisers will help."

Talkzone manager, Tracy Scotland, added: "We have qualified and experienced staff on hand, who are used to dealing with anything and everything that young people call about.

"They really can talk about any worries, whatever they might be.

"In December we were contacted about many issues including problems at home, anxiety, homelessness, finding a job, careers advice and bereavement. I'm so glad that people were able to turn to us for support.

"Talkzone can help young people with family and relationship issues; contraceptive, drugs and alcohol advice; or information about finding a job. No matter how big or small the issue, Talkzone is available."

The service can be contacted by phone on 0800 511111, by text on 07786 511111, by email at talkzone@lancashire.gov.uk or online at www.facebook.com/LancashireYZ.

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Gorse Hill to host Snowdrop Sunday event

GORSE Hill Nature Reserve will be open to visitors for a one-day event, 'Snowdrop Sunday', later this month.

Visitors to the site off Holly Lane, Ormskirk will be able to enjoy self-guided walks through Cabin Wood to see the show of snowdrops on Sunday, February 12 from noon to 4.30pm. Tea, coffee and homemade cakes will also be on sale.

Reserve manager, Jonathan Atkins, said: "We are looking forward to welcoming visitors to our first event of 2017.

"With the new pathways around Cabin Wood nearing completion, access for wheelchair and buggy users will be much improved.

"These paths have been constructed with help from Team 12 of The Prince's Trust working with many of the reserve's volunteers.

"However some parts are still muddy so suitable footwear is advisable.

"All are welcome - including well-behaved dogs, provided they are on a lead!"

County council backs Safer Internet Day

LANCASHIRE County Council is supporting the third international Safer Internet Day (SID) on Tuesday, February 7.

The event aims to promote safe and responsible use of online technology and mobile phones, especially for children and young people.

This year's global theme for the day is 'Be the Change: Unite for a better Internet' and focuses on the part people all play in helping to create a safer Internet.

County Councillor Marcus Johnstone, Lancashire's cabinet member for environment, planning and cultural services, said: "Safer Internet Day gives us a valuable opportunity to remind everyone about how to keep children and young people safe online. This includes parents, carers and those who work with children and young people.

County Councillor Marcus Johnstone

"The day also lets us raise awareness of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and offers advice on identifying when exploitation may be taking place and how to report it.

"Although young people today are digitally savvy, they also need to be reminded about how to protect their privacy and their personal information online, and just how important this is.

"I'm sure we all appreciate just how quickly technology changes and we need to do all we can to help to keep young people safe."

Supporters of the event can complete an online quiz, which highlights the importance of staying safe online and the possible dangers of sharing photographs and videos. This is available at www.saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/2017/safer-internet-day-2017-quiz/

There is also an opportunity to take part in an online 'Learn My Way' including information about scams, keeping your data secure online and staying safe when using the Internet. Ways to report possible child exploitation will also be highlighted.

People can go online in Lancashire's libraries to complete the quiz or to find out more about the day.

More information about the event is available at www.saferinternet.org.uk.

Treat mum this Mother's Day, Sunday 26th March, with a three course lunch and a special gift, then sit back and enjoy the live entertainment from our favourite acoustic duo.

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Residents urged to check tree contractors are suitably qualified

WEST Lancs Council is advising residents to check carefully if firms offering to prune their trees are suitably qualified and insured to carry out the work, and charge a fair rate.

Concerns have been raised by the authority as many people with gardens may be looking for someone to prune their trees during the spring and summer.

Councillor John Hodson, the council's portfolio holder for planning, said: "It is important that contractors carrying out works to trees are properly qualified and insured to do the work, and use the correct protective equipment. People should be very wary of using companies or individuals that do not fit into those criteria.

Councillor John Hodson

"Residents should also be on their guard against companies that may try to coax them into having work done that may not be needed and charge them more than the going rate for this work.

It is always a good idea to try and get more than one quote for work on trees to get more of an idea of what work is needed and how much it should cost."

The council is also advising people they would need to apply to the authority for permission to carry out pruning works on a tree that is subject to a preservation order. Anyone who lives in a conservation area would also need to notify council officers prior to carrying out any pruning works to trees.

For more information go to the council's website www.westlancs.gov.uk/trees, where you can also find the council's list of approved arboricultural contractors. These firms are fully qualified and insured to carry out works to trees.

Call to cook up a treat for Global Scouse Day

ALTHOUGH primarily associated with Liverpool, Scouse is a popular dish throughout the North West and eateries across Lancashire are being urged to cook up their best efforts for a special event.

Global Scouse Day (GSD), Tuesday, February 28, will see hundreds of restaurants putting the traditional nosh on their menus to mark the event.

Last year, restaurants in New York, Washington and San Diego in the USA all took part, as well as many venues throughout the UK. Organisers are hoping even more eateries will join in this year.

Participating venues are provided with a recipe, if required, plus downloadable promotional posters. And the majority donate a percentage from each portion sold to a nominated charity partner via the GSD Just Giving page. This year's partner is Woodlands Hospice Charitable Trust in Liverpool.

For more information on how to get involved contact globalscouseday@gmail.com or register on www.globalscouseday.com.

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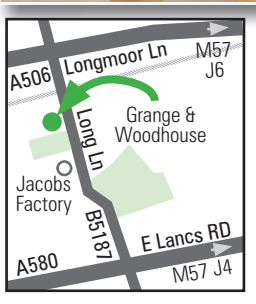

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University study highlights level of abuse faced by football referees

RESEARCH conducted by lecturers at three UK universities, including Edge Hill, shows that 60 per cent of football referees questioned experienced abuse every couple of games with as many as one in five facing physical abuse!

The study - carried out by Jimmy O'Gorman from the Ormskirk university along with Jamie Cleland of Loughborough University and Tom Webb from the University of Portsmouth - questioned referees about their experiences following the introduction of the Respect programme by the English Football Association (FA).

Of more than 2,000 officials questioned, including 370 under-17s, more than 22% said they suffered abuse every game.

They reported abusive behaviour from parents, spectators and coaches, making them feel anxious and vulnerable and leaving them fearing physical harm.

Jimmy O'Gorman said: "Through the online questionnaire we asked three questions; one about their experience of officiating since the introduction of the Respect programme; the extent to which they had been verbally and/or physically abused; and lastly the level of support provided by the national and county FAs. While 54% said the Respect campaign had been somewhat successful there were some consistent themes. The behaviour of parents at grassroots level and their competitive nature was viewed as a significant problem by a number of young referees.

"Many also commented on how the leniency shown on offensive or abusive language and/or gestures at elite level had negative consequences for grassroots referees."

The full report will be published in the International Review for the Sociology of Sport and available on the journal's website.

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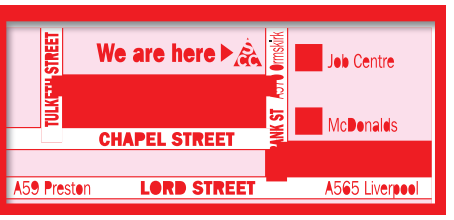

Martin Mere news

ADVERTISING FEATURE

Splashtastic fun puddle jumping at WWT Martin Mere Wetland Centre this half term

Dress up warm and get your wellies on this February half term as WWT Martin Mere Wetland Centre hosts the third North West Puddle Jumping Championships.

The event, from 11th to 19th February, is encouraging children of all ages to get out into the fresh air and have fun jumping in puddles, competing against each other for the biggest splash.

This year WWT's new children's character, Dusty Duck is joining in the fun and helping kids create the biggest, craziest splash possible. Dusty was exclusively designed by the world-famous Aardman studios to help celebrate WWT's 70th anniversary by getting children closer to nature.

As well as the main puddle jumping competition arenas, there will be practice zones set up to help entrants perfect their splashing techniques before the 2pm competition. It's only 50p to enter and every entrant will receive a 'splashtastic' sticker to acknowledge their puddle jumping skills – with the daily 'super-splasher' receiving prizes.

Jumps will be judged on the enthusiasm of the jumper, creativity of the jump and the height of the splash. Normal admission charges apply to participate in this event.

In addition, other jumping and welly activities include taking part in our frog jump between 11am and 12.30pm and see how far you can throw a wellington boot in our welly shot putt event between 1pm and 2pm as well as letting the kids run wild in the Adventure playground after watching hundreds of Whooper swans feed on the Mere at 3pm from the new Discovery hide.

WWT Martin Mere Wetland Centre is open every day (except Christmas Day) from 9.30am to 4.30pm during winter months and parking is free of charge. Situated off the A59, it is signposted from the M61, M58 and M6. The Centre is also accessible via the Southport to Manchester and the Liverpool to Preston line by train from Burscough Rail Stations. Visit the web site http://www.wwt.org.uk/martinmere/ to find out what's on all year round at Martin Mere and the other eight WWT Wetland Centres.

Visit the web site www.wwt.org.uk/martinmere to find out what's on the reserve at the moment as well as all the upcoming events

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Commissioner says county policing plan is down to community teamwork

LANCASHIRE'S police and crime commissioner, Clive Grunshaw has labelled his 2016-2021 plan for policing in the county a real community effort.

Mr Grunshaw says the plan has been developed by community members, local councils, voluntary sector organisations, the police, health professionals and partners across the criminal justice sector.

The Police and Crime Commissioner's 2016 – 2021 plan shapes the way policing and justice services are delivered by setting out strategic objectives which the chief constable and his team are required to deliver against.

It also shapes the work in communities of community safety partners and those delivering criminal justice services.

The four priorities in the Lancashire plan are: protecting local policing; tackling crime and reoffending; supporting vulnerable people and victims; and developing safe and confident communities.

Mr Grunshaw said: "Our engagement in developing the new plan was really extensive. I met with literally hundreds of people representing partner organisations, and 1,672 Lancashire residents also completed the survey to make sure I understand the issues that matter to them most.

Report by **Henry James**

"Despite the huge pressures that our police and partners are facing, I am confident that by working together we can keep Lancashire safe."

And he added: "We have had some excellent feedback from all those involved and as we plan ahead I am sure that combined with these priorities we will deliver the public's priorities."

Residents were asked to rank policing issues as high, medium or low risk priorities.

In total 1,672 public survey responses were received and most said tackling major crimes such as murder, rape and serious assaults (93.6%) were their highest priority, with protecting children from child sexual exploitation (88.7%) coming second. Counter-terrorism/tackling serious organised crime (75%), and patrolling neighbourhoods with high crime rates (72.4%) also ranked highly.

Responding to non-emergency calls (12.5%) and patrolling areas with low levels of crime were only ranked high priority by a small number of people (10%) and were actually seen as more than half of respondents' lowest priorities when it came to crime themes.

Mr Grunshaw concluded: "These figures show that residents were actively looking for a response to crime in their area and it is an excellent way of getting to know what they wanted to tackle. As we renew the priorities, I will continue to listen to those involved who are assisting to make a difference to policing in their area."

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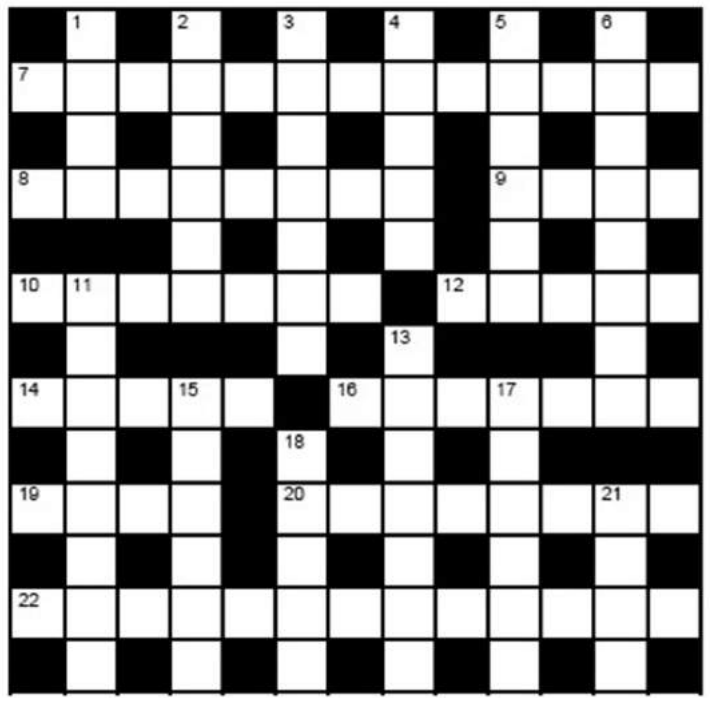

Last week's solutions:

Across: 7 Paling. 8 Serial. 9 Clue. 10 Thousand. 11 Dynasty. 13 Saint. 15 Realm. 17 Sweeten. 20 Advanced. 21 Aids. 22 Gauche. 23 Lizard.

Down: 1 Barley. 2 Jive. 3 Agitate. 4 Ascot. 5 Prostate. 6 Cannon. 12 Alliance. 14 Twiddle. 16 Endear. 18 Endure. 19 Octet. 21 Adze.

ACROSS

7. Comprehension (13)
8. Natural talent or tendency (8)
9. Object of worship (4)
10. Military officer serving as a personal attendant to a senior member of the Royal Family (7)
12. Execute without legal sanction, usually by hanging (5)
14. Punctuation mark (5)
16. In the direction of (7)
19. Literary term meaning to encircle with a belt or band (4)
20. Secretly and carefully planned (4-4)
22. Collective term for all living creatures (6, 7)

DOWN

1. Break suddenly (4)
2. Restore to life or consciousness (6)
3. Tidal mouth of a large river (7)
4. Periods when stores typically sell goods at reduced prices (5)
5. Strange or peculiar person or thing (7)
6. Compulsory (8)
11. Result obtained by dividing one quantity by another (8)
13. Tropical or subtropical plant of the bellflower family, in particular an annual widely grown as a bedding plant (7)
15. Title used for a married French woman (6)
17. Assert without proof (6)
18. Grown-up (5)
21. Metallic element, chemical symbol FE (4)

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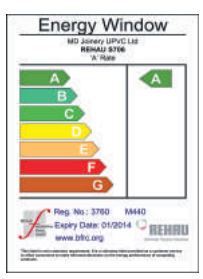

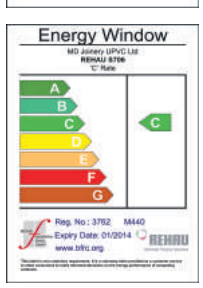

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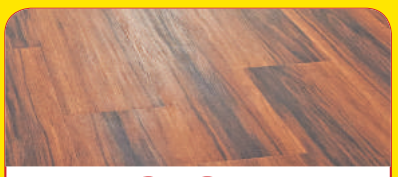

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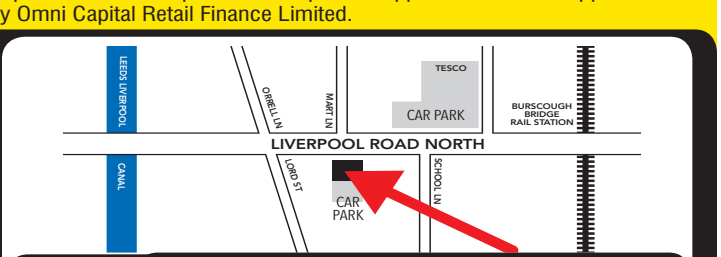

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Springwatch events and country walks in council rangers' February schedule

WEST Lancs Council's parks and countryside ranger service have some great activities in store in February - from Springwatch events for children to countryside walks.

The first countryside walk is a five-mile loop around Abbey Lakes and Dean Wood on Monday, February 6. People taking part should meet at Abbey Lakes 9.50am for a 10am start.

Next up is a seven-mile Tarleton Circular on Sunday, February 19, meeting at Tarleton Library at 9.50am for a 10am start.

Due to the advanced nature of these walks, anyone intending to take part is advised to wear suitable sturdy footwear with ankle support and suitable clothing for the weather.

There is no need to book in advance for the walks but you can call the Rangers on 01695 622794 for more information.

Meanwhile children aged between five and 12 can find out

Councillor Yvonne Gagen

the exciting changes that occur in our local natural landscape at this time of year at Junior Rangers Springwatch events.

The first is at Coronation Park, Ormskirk on Monday, February 13, starting from the Bowling Pavilion at 1pm.

Then Beacon Country Park hosts another on Tuesday, February 14, starting from the Ranger Station at 1pm.

Booking is required for the Junior Rangers events and can only be done by calling the Rangers on 01695 622794. Booking opens seven days before each event. Children under eight must be accompanied by an adult when attending Junior Rangers events and should wear suitable clothing and footwear for the weather conditions if attending these outdoor events.

Councillor Yvonne Gagen, West Lancs Council's portfolio holder for leisure, said: "Make sure you don't miss these great events in our local parks and countryside."

For more information on West Lancs Council leisure events visit www.westlancs.gov.uk/events.

For more information about volunteering opportunities with the Ranger Service contact 01695 622794. You can also find out more about parks and countryside events by following the Rangers on Twitter @WLBC_Rangers or visiting their Facebook page www.facebook.com/wlbc.rangers.

Chance to learn more about Dogs for Good

THE Ormskirk & Southport District branch of the Oddfellows Society is hosting a talk by a guest speaker from Dogs for Good at Lord Street West Community Hall, Duke Street, Southport on Friday (February 3) starting at 1.30pm.

The group's events organiser, Judith Catton, said: "Dogs for Good is an innovative charity, exploring ways dogs can help people overcome specific challenges and enrich and improve lives and communities. This is a chance to find out how the dogs are trained to support adults and children with a wide range of disabilities and conditions."

Entry costs £5, with all profits to be donated to the charity. Anyone wishing to attend is asked to arrive by 12.30pm. For more information, call Judith on 01704 545279.

Saturday 11 – Sunday 19 February

Have a fun February half term at our brilliant North West Puddle Jumping Championships with Dusty Duck.

WWT Martin Mere Wetland Centre

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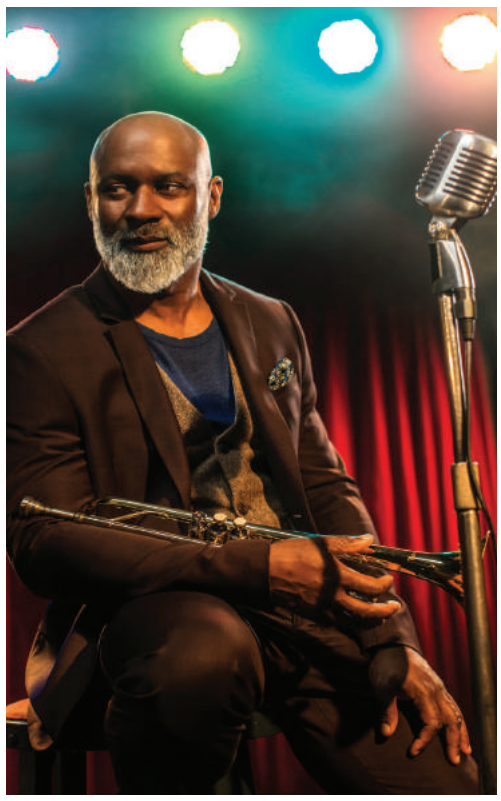
Wednesday 8th February 9am - 5pm



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Spend an Evening with Aggers & Tuffers

EVER since the home Ashes series in 2013, Evenings with Aggers have been delighting audiences all over the country.

Jonathan has had hugely successful nights with Geoffrey Boycott, Sunil Gavaskar and Graeme Swann. Now, for the second year running, Jonathan Agnew MBE teams up with his Test Match Special colleague Phil Tufnell, and the show visits Southport Theatre on Thursday, February 9.

Tuffers was the Bad Boy of English cricket in the 1990s, but the best spinner - left-arm or otherwise - as well. He was known as The Cat because of his love of dressing-room naps and, rarely seen without a beer and a fag, Tufnell has always been something of a folk hero. Since retiring, he has carved out a successful TV career, and he is Matt Dawson's opposing team captain on the long-running series, A Question of Sport.

An Evening with Aggers & Tuffers starts at 7.30pm.

Phil Tufnell and Jonathan Agnew MBE

Nelson Goerner

Popular performer returning

FOLLOWING his dazzling virtuoso playing at the 2015 Midsummer Festival which drew a standing ovation from the Parbold audience, Nelson Goerner returns to Douglas Music, Parbold on Saturday, February 11 at 7.45pm in the Arena Auditorium, The Village Hall.

He has changed his schedule specially to come to Parbold to play the Steinway that he admired as "wonderful".

Nelson's playing has been praised for his 'marvellous musicianship and emotional engagement'.

His recordings of Frederic Chopin, whose works feature in the Parbold programme, have won critical awards. His programme includes a Spanish theme with pieces by Albeniz and Granados alongside Franz Liszt's virtuoso concert-showpiece Rhapsodie Espagnole, based on traditional Spanish music that inspired Liszt on his tour of Spain and Portugal.

Nelson was born in San Pedro, Argentina and when only 17 years old he won the First Prize in the 1986 Franz Liszt Competition in Buenos Aires, and First Prize at the 1990 Geneva Competition.

Since then Nelson Goerner has established himself as one of the foremost pianists of his generation with an international, globe-encircling career that has led him to collaborate with some of the world's greatest musicians, like Martha Argerich and the most famous locations.

Douglas Music has set up a Ticket and Ride scheme to offer a subsidised mini-bus service to and from its concerts for members of the audience who would love to come to the events but who cannot use or do not have access to public transport.

To find out more and book Ticket and Ride, first book your concert ticket at Douglas Music's Box Office and then contact Tel: 01704 893373 between 9am and 2pm weekdays or leave a message to reserve a seat on the bus and to make the pick up and drop-off arrangements.

As part of Douglas Music's commitment to the NW community it has maintained its admission price for students/young persons.

Douglas Music is supported by the Arts Council, England, Lancashire County Council and West Lancashire Borough Council.

WHAT'S ON 2017

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DREAMBOATS AND PETTICOATS
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February
NATHAN CARTER
Sunday 5th
ROUND THE HORNE
Wednesday 8th
AN EVENING WITH AGGERS & TUFFERS
Thursday 9th
SMOKIE
Friday 10th
YOU WIN AGAIN
The Story of the Bee Gees
Saturday 11th
WILLY RUSSELL'S BLOOD BROTHERS
Monday 13th - Saturday 18th
JIMMY CARR
Sunday 19th
JAMIE RAVEN LIVE
Magic from the Britain's Got Talent star!
Tuesday 21st
I'M SORRY I HAVEN'T A CLUE
Thursday 23rd
ONE NIGHT IN NASHVILLE
A celebration of country's greatest hits
Saturday 25th

March
YOU'VE GOT A FRIEND
THE MUSIC OF JAMES TAYLOR AND CAROLE KING
Friday 3rd
THE ILLEGAL EAGLES
Friday 10th
BEYOND THE BARRICADE
The greatest songs in musical theatre
Friday 10th (Floral Hall)
WHITNEY – QUEEN OF THE NIGHT
Saturday 11th
MR BLOOM'S NURSERY – LIVE!
Monday 13th (1pm & 4pm)
THE MAGIC OF MOTOWN
Friday 17th
DREAMBOATS AND PETTICOATS
Monday 20th – Saturday 25th

April
LES MCKEOWN'S BAY CITY ROLLERS
Saturday 1st
TOTALLY TINA
Friday 7th
GRIMETHORPE COLLIERY BAND
Saturday 8th

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*singles available (no supplement)

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Departs: Mon 19th June
5 days £319

SCARBOROUGH, WHITBY & NORTH YORK MOORS
Departs: Mon 21st August
5 days £345

CABARET & THE COTSWOLDS
Departs: Sun 24thSept
2 days £109

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To Amsterdam
Wed 17th May ~ £109
Sun 2nd July ~ £109
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UNDER 'LOCH & QUAY'
Departs: Wed 2nd August
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Includes:
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* tea/coffee on arrival
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*coach travel throughout

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Departs: Sat 16th September
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* 2 nights half Board (Isle of Mull)
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*coach travel throughout

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Tue 9th May £559 (8 days)
Sat 15th July £629 (8 days)
Sun 13th August £659 (8 days)
Thu 5th October £499 (8 days)
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5 days £309
ALVASTON HALL
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Britannia Hotel, Bramhope — Nr Harrogate
★2 for 1 BAR DEALS 6pm-9pm selected dates★
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★2 Nights Arrive Friday	★4 Nights Arrive Monday
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Devilled Bury Black Pudding Fritters, English Mustard Mayonnaise
Pulled Pork and Apple Croquette, Cricketer's BBQ Sauce
Fleetwood Crispy Whitebait, Rocket, Homemade Tartar Sauce

MAIN

Mini Lancashire Hot Pot, Toasted Granary Baguette, Pickles
Braised Smithy Mushroom, Pearl Barley and Puy Lentil Risotto with a Poached Hen Egg (V)
Winter Salad; Roasted Squash and Sweet Potato, Quinoa, Toasted Pumpkin Seed salad, Scorched Raddichio, Winter Leaf, Lemon and Mint Dressing (Vegan)
Haddock Goujons and Chips, Mushy Peas, Tartar Sauce
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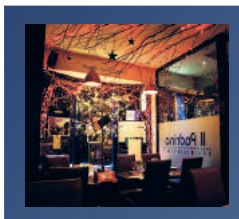

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MOUNTAIN BIKE Merida Matts50, quick release wheels, disc brakes, aluminium frame, unwanted present, less than half price £250 07500803554

MANS BIKE Aluminium frame, Raleigh, 21 gears, v.good condition £40 01695 724520

BMX BIKE united supreme 2015 blue,custom bars and grips complete with gyro excellent condition bargain £175 01515319425/07773242918

LADIES BIKE Appollo Corona red and black VGC gears, nearly new hardly used bargain £35 01704880509

LANDROVER BIKE Silver and black VVGC suit 5 to 8 year old, first to see it will buy 01704880509

CLOTHING

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LADIES RIPCURL Jacket, grey zipped 'Search for Snow' motif on front, soft dark grey lining, medium, lovely condition £12 ono 07858 462998

GENTS WINTER OVERCOAT black full length Burgundy lining 76% wool size 52R excellent condition worn once. Cost over £120 bargain £65 01704220356

LADIES TAP SHOES Black P U size 7 by Freed of London Rhythm collection. Cuban heel little used with box. £12 01704 560150

BUSINESS SUITES 2 Chester Barrie D.B (Gents) dark stripe suits. Beautiful condition recently dry cleaned, chest 46" waist 42" £75 each ono 575616

WELLINGTON BOOTS New size 9 £5 01704 893569

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WATERPROOF JACKET Gents lined detachable hood, large size, never been worn, no texts £20 07564 223114

LADIES JACKET Brand new Marks and Spencer's ladies short jacket, still has labels on. Black and white, size 14. Very smart looking and a bargain. Also more jackets if needed £25 07434841029

LADIES DRESS New Per-Una dress which still has shop labels on, black and white in colour, size 10 to 12, ideal for a wedding, racers or special occasion. Cost new £65, more new clothes for sale also, Aintree. £25 07434841029

NEW LADIES AND GENTS SHOES Ladies M&S foot-glove shoes in black leather size 6, £12. More ladies shoes from size 6 available if required. Gents new M&S moccasin style slippers size 9, cost £22 sell for £8 07434841029

GENTS SUIT Brand new gents suit which still has labels on bought from Next, 36 inch waste, regular leg, jacket 40 regular, charcoal grey in colour, genuine reason for sale, Aintree. £59 07434841029

LADIES GREY suede "Rocket Dog"/wedged heel boots size 6. Fur lined/decorative laced front - boot pulls on. Ex con. £25 07855222552

LADIES BLACK leather non-branded sturdy flat size 5 walking boots, suitable for low level canal/field etc walking. Very good value £7 07855222552

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PUBLIC NOTICES

West Lancashire Borough Council
Planning (Listed Buildings & Conservation Areas) Act 1990 Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 - Article 15

APPLICATION(S) FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

Application No: 2016/1226/COU Change of use from former agricultural silage to the taking off and landing of model aircraft. Also for the siting of a temporary storage container for storage of mowing facilities at Land East Of, Meadow Lane, Lathom.

The proposed development affects a right of way to which Part III of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 applies.

APPLICATION(S) AFFECTING A CONSERVATION AREA / LISTED BUILDING

Application No: 2016/1142/FUL Erection of new wall and gates to the front of the property, and alterations and re-skinning to the existing house at 80 The Common, Parbold.

Application No: 2016/1293/FUL Demolition of existing dwellings and outbuildings and erection of one detached dwelling at Land South Of Entrance To Pilkington Technology Centre, Hall Lane, Lathom.

Application No: 2016/1294/FUL Demolition of existing dwellings and erection of one detached dwelling at Land South Of Entrance To Pilkington Technology Centre, Hall Lane, Lathom.

Application No: 2017/0073/FUL Retention of 5 bed student HMO at 11A Aughton Street, Ormskirk.

Application No: 2017/0074/FUL Retention of 5 bed student HMO at 13A Aughton Street, Ormskirk.

Application No: 2017/0077/FUL Retention of garage conversion to habitable accommodation at 32 Ainscough Drive, Burscough.

The applications are available for viewing on the Council's website www.westlancs.gov.uk/planning. Alternatively, the application can be viewed during normal office hours at 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk and at 1st Floor, The Concourse, Skelmersdale. If you wish to comment on the proposal you can do so via the Council's web site, by e.mail to plan.apps@westlancs.gov.uk or in writing to Development and Regeneration Services, 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk, but these must be received within 21 days of the date of this notice quoting the application no. Any comments made will be available for public inspection.

Applications for Minor Commercial and Householder Development

In the event that an appeal is made against a decision of the Council to refuse to grant planning permission for the proposed development, and that appeal then proceeds by way of the expedited procedure under the written representations procedure, any representations made to the Council about an application will be passed to the Secretary of State and there will be no opportunity to make further representations.

John R Harrison DipEnvP., MRTPI Director of Development and Regeneration
Dated: 1st February 2017
PDNOT933

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mobility world

IMPORTANT PUBLIC NOTICE

Re: Mr Paul Gordon Frossell

Mobility World Southport Ltd wish to make it clear that Mr Paul Gordon Frossell's contract with us was ceased in August 2015.

At that point we disassociated ourselves with him and have had no further dealings with him since. Mr Frossell went on to start his own business selling mobility products for himself from his home, a bedsit flat in Southport.

On 27th Jan 2017 Mr P G Frossell was convicted at Liverpool Crown Court for fraud involving mobility scooters and jailed for 12 months.

Please be aware that Mobility World Ltd, its owners, current staff and contractors have no involvement with him or any of his wrongdoings.

DIY

EARLEX STEAMER Earlex steam cleaning kit. Includes 4.5litre steam pot, wallpaper stripper, sink unblocker and other devices. £10 01772814774

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RADIATOR Double panel radiator 6ft long, 2ft high with valves. £20 01704 892566/07794652205

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6 PANEL DOOR unpainted pine 78"X30 £5 01704 575124

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HEDGE CUTTER by Challenge, battery operated £15 01704 893569

HEDGE CUTTER Volt £25 ono. Good condition. 01704 893569

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GARDEN VAC Black and decker garden vac £10 07894043048

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CAMERA TRIPOD Hama tripod star 75 in carry case, good condition. £10 07948192001

SPOTTING SCOPE. Optus 20x60x60 with mini tripod and case.£10 07948192001

MODEL AIRCRAFT Corgi Mosquito 1/72 empty original box, ring for details 0151 5260191

VIOLIN Full size with case, good condition £30 07778 537802

AIR COMPRESSOR 8ltr tank, half the asking price. Was £56 Now £25 bargain. Foot stool Argos £15. Now £5. As new 01704 876907

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VINTAGE WADDINGTON'S Spyring game - unused. In original box. £5 07855222552

CAMERA TRIPOD Velbon CX 540 with spare shoe. Suitable DSLR. Good condition. £12 07810338675

FISHING UMBRELLA Keenets fishing umbrella. Little faded in places £10 07894043048

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SEA FISHING beach castor rod & multiplier reel £20. Diana boat rod & multiplier reel £25. Other rods £10 & £5 01704 574986

GUITAR STRAP New high quality black leather studded strap with gold colour genuine Schaller strap locks, never drop your guitar again! £40 01704831977

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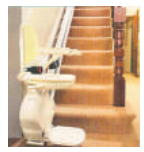

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- *Round includes:* Trevor Rd, Abbey Fold, Priory Cl, School House Gr, Vicarage Gardens
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- *Round includes:* Long Ln (part), Beaumont Cr, Carmel Cl, Sandfield Pk, Moss Bank Ct, Moss Bank, Aughton Park Dr

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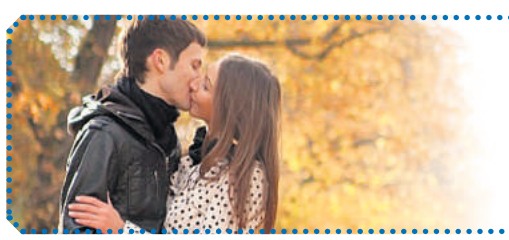
Full details at www.witherslackgroup.co.uk/vacancies. For further information about the school, or to arrange a visit please call Nikki McCabe, School Administrator on 01695 578734 or email nicola.mccabe@witherslackgroup.co.uk

We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expect all staff to respect this commitment.
These posts are subject to an enhanced DBS check.



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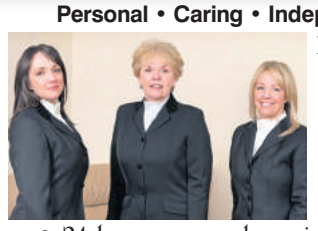

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0151 924 9530

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01704 550 011

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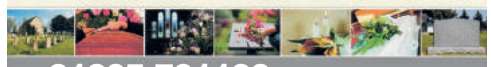

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DEATHS

GREEN EVA

Our lives go on
without you
but nothing is the
same,
we have to hide our
heartache
when someone
speaks your name.
Sad are the hearts
that love you,
silent are the tears
that fall,
Living without you is
the hardest part of all.
You did so many
things for us
your heart was so
kind and true
and when we needed
someone
we could always
count on you.
The special years will
not return
when we are all
together
but with the love in
our hearts
you walk with us
forever.

Our love always,
your broken hearted
Grandchildren and
Great Grandchildren
James, Vickey,
Rachel, Lee, Ste,
Dean, Jack, Kati,
Olivia, Charlotte,
Lucas and Oliver
xxxxxxxxxxx

GREEN EVA

26th January 2017
Peacefully at home surrounded by her loving family
Aged 80 years

Loving Wife of Bob, Devoted Mum of Steve, Roy and Jan, Dear Mother-in-law of Sue, Eileen and Jim, Cherished Grandma and Great Grandma of all her Grandchildren and a much loved Auntie of all her nieces and nephews. Will be sadly missed by all her family and friends. Funeral Service will take place at West Lancashire Crematorium on Friday 3rd February at 1.45pm. Family flowers only please by request. Donations if desired for Cancer Research UK or North West Air Ambulance. All enquiries to Margaret Whitelam, Skelmersdale Funeral Service, 29/31 Sandy Lane
Tel: 01695 559868

GREEN EVA

To our beautiful Mum.
Your wings were
ready but our hearts
were not,
we will love and miss
you always,

Broken hearted
Daughter and Son-in
Law
Jan and Jim
xxx

DEATHS

GREEN EVA

Died on the
26th January 2017
aged 80 years

The fact you are no
longer with us Mum
will always
cause us pain,
But the special
memories we have
of you
Will help us smile
again.

Forever in our hearts
Your loving Son Steve
and Daughter-in-law
Sue xx

Memories are a gift
Grandma and ours
will last forever,
Louise, Andrew,
Mathew, Darren,
Diana and Chelsy xx

GREEN EVA

26th January 2017
Aged 80 years

Dearly loved
Mum to Roy and
Eileen, special
Nan to Lyndsey,
Chris, Michael and
Stephanie. Great
Grandmother to Elise,
Erin, Maisie. Will be
greatly missed by all
the family.

GREEN EVA

Passed away peacefully at home surrounded by her loving family on the 26th January 2017
aged 80 years.

I am sending a dove
to heaven with a
parcel on it's wings,
Be careful when you
open it,
It's full of beautiful
things,
Inside are a million
kisses
wrapped up in a
million hugs
to say how much I
miss you
and to send you all
my love.
I hold you close within
my heart
and there you will
remain
to walk with me
throughout my life
until we meet again.

Your loving Husband
Bob
xxx

DEATHS

GREEN EVA

26th January 2017
You fought a losing
battle
You suffered towards
the end
You left us
brokenhearted
Our dear auntie to
the end
I am going to miss
the talks we had,the
stories we would tell
I will always miss
your smiling face,your
mischievous
laugh,but i know in
my heart you are in a
better place.
RIP love always
Jo and Steve
xxx
Goodnight God bless
Auntie Grandma.
Kayleigh,Stevie and
Adam xxx

LYSON HANNAH NICOLE

28th January 2017
Aged 20 years of Burscough

Passed away peacefully
at home surrounded by all
her loving family.
'OUR BEAUTIFUL BRAVE HANNAH'
Dearly loved and precious
Daughter, Sister, Granddaughter,
Aunty, Niece and Cousin. Loved
and missed by all her family
and friends. Funeral Service at
West Lancashire Crematorium,
on Friday 3rd February 2017
at 12.15pm. Family flowers
only by request, but donations
are being gratefully received
in memory of Hannah for
Teenage Cancer Trust and Zak
Vali Foundation. Donations and
further enquiries please to
Lisa Hunter, MLS Independent
Funeral Directors,
22a Liverpool Road North,
Burscough, L40 5TP.
Tele: 01704 891555

HOUGHTON WILLIAM (Bill)

Suddenly on
22nd January 2017
aged 86 years

Dearly loved Husband of Alma,
much loved Dad of Janet and
Noreen and Father-In-Law of
Melvin and Robert. Loving
Grandad of Rachelle,
Hayley, Karen and Darryl and a
Great-Grandad of Philippa, Phoebe
and Scarlett.
Funeral Service will take place at
Charnock Richard Crematorium
on Monday 6th February at 12:00
noon. Family flowers only please
but donations if so desired may go
to Cancer Research U.K.
c/o the Funeral Director
N & K Harvey Funerals Ltd,
180 The Green, Eccleston,
Chorley, PR7 5SU.
Tel: 01257 451508

DEATHS

RYLANCE JOHN

23rd January 2017,
aged 74 years

Dearly loved Husband of
Pam. Loving Dad of Laura
and Lesley. Dear Gramps
of Sam, Becki, Grace and
Abbi. Father-in-law of Damian
and Les. John will be sadly
missed by all his family and
friends. Funeral Service will
take place at St John the
Baptist Church, Burscough
on Thursday 9th February
2017 at 1.30pm, followed by
committal at West Lancashire
Crematorium. Family flowers
only by request please, but
donations are being gratefully
received by the family for the
British Lung Foundation or
the Lily Foundation. Further
enquiries please to Cookson
Tyrer Funeralcare, 2 Smithy
Walk, Burscough, Lancashire
L40 5UU. Tel 01704 897770

MURPHY EDNA VENABLES

22nd January 2017
Peacefully in Hospital
aged 89 years

Beloved Wife of the late Peter
Dominic Murphy, loving Mother
of Christine, Peter and Margaret
and Son-In-Law Andrew. Much
loved Grandmother of Hannah,
Daniel, Freya and Emma.
"Mother" to many more, will
be sadly missed by all who
knew her.
Funeral Service to be held at
2pm on Friday 3rd February
2017 at St Anne's Church,
Ormskirk, followed by
Committal at West Lancashire
Crematorium. All enquiries via
Craven Funeral Directors,
16a Derby Street West,
Ormskirk, L39 3NH.
01695 577200

BRADSHAW GERTRUD (TRUDY)

22nd January 2017
suddenly in hospital
Aged 90 years

Dearly beloved Wife of the
Late William. Much loved
Mum of Barbara, Rosemary,
Philip, Peter and Colin.
Trudy will be sadly missed
by all her family and friends
and all who knew her.
Funeral Service and
committal will take place
at West Lancashire
Crematorium at 12.15pm
on Wednesday 8th February
2017. Family flowers only
by request but the family
are receiving donations for
Breast Cancer UK. Further
enquiries to Co-operative
Funeralcare, 22c Wigan Road,
Ormskirk L39 2AU.
Tel: 01695 577244

DEATHS

CAHILL DORIS (DOT)

On the 25th January 2017
Fell asleep peacefully in hospital and of Skelmersdale

A much loved Mum,
Nan and Great Nan.
Will be sadly missed
by all her children and
their families.
A funeral service will
take place on Friday
3rd February 2017
at West Lancashire
Crematorium
(Burscough) at
10.45am. Family
flowers only please.
Donations if desired to
a charity of your own
choice. All enquiries
W. Banks of Orrell.
Tel: 01695 622272

HORN JOANNE (JOAN)

24th January 2017
Aged 91

Died peacefully with her Loving
Family by her side at Silver Birch
Lodge Nursing Home in Aughton.
Darling Wife of Fred. Beloved Mum
to Fred and Dawn. Precious Nana
to Katy and Laura. Loving Sister to
Madge, Lou and Joe. Special Aunt
to Paul, Neil, Sue, Jan, Alyson,
Jean, Tommy, Dennis and Bobby.
Joan will be greatly missed by all
whose lives she touched.
11.30 Committal Service at
West Lancs Crematorium on
Monday 6th February followed
by celebration of Joan's Life at
Cottage Lane Mission at 12 noon.
Family flowers only. Any donations
please to The Stroke Association
or Cancer Research UK.
Donations and further enquiries
please to Lisa Hunter, MLS
Independent Funeral Directors,
20 Moss Delph Lane, Aughton.
Tel 01695 424888.

CRANE JAMES ALLEN (ALLEN)

21st January 2017
Peacefully at Aaron Crest Nursing Home, age 78 years

Allen will be very
sadly missed by
all his family and
friends. Funeral
service will take place
at West Lancashire
Crematorium on
Thursdy 2nd February
at 1.45pm. Family
flowers only please
by request, donations
if desired for RSPCA.
All enquiries to
Margaret Whitelam,
Skelmersdale
Funeral Service,
29/31 Sandy Lane.
Tel 01695 559868.

DEATHS

COOKE JEAN

23rd January 2017
Peacefully aged 86 years

Dearly beloved Wife of the late
Harold Cooke. Much loved mum
of Jim, Isobel and Heather. Dear
Mother-In-Law of Helena, Steve
and Graham. Devoted Nan of
her Grandchildren and Nan-Nan
to her Great-Grandchildren.
Jean will be sadly missed by all
her family and friends and all
who knew her.
Funeral Service and Committal
will place at West Lancashire
Crematorium, at 11.30am
on Tuesday 7th February
2017. Family flowers only
by request but the family are
receiving donations for Birch
Green Care Home, Ivydale,
Skelmersdale. Further enquiries
to Co-operative Funeralcare,
22c Wigan Road,
Ormskirk, L39 2AU.
Tel: 01695 577244

PARR MARIE LOUISE

25th January 2017
Peacefully surrounded by her loving family
Aged 94 years

Deeply loved wife of the
late Frank, loving Mother of
Michael, Maureen, Angela,
Christopher and Gerard,
loving grandma of Joanne,
David, Andrew, Katherine,
Ashleigh, Aimee, Darren
and Dionne and much
loved Great Grandma,
"May the blessed Virgin Mary,
take my Mum's hand and
lead her safely into heaven".
Requiem Mass and
Interment at St Richards
RC Church, Liverpool Road,
Skelmersdale on Friday 3rd
February 2017 at 10.30am.
Family flowers only please,
donations if desired for
Alzheimers Society.
All enquiries to H Hardman
& Co., Independent Family
Funeral Directors of
Skelmersdale, Ormskirk
& Scarisbrick.
Tel: 01695 722122 / 720012

TOWNSLEY RONNIE

Aged 87 Years
20th January 2017

Dearly loved Grandad
to Barry & Jeannine.
Devoted Great
Grandad to Abbie &
Macy.
You will forever be in
our hearts and will
always be missed but
never forgotten.
Thanks for all the
memories Walt.
Xx

BIRTHDAYS

STEPHEN PERRY

3rd February

Happy 60th Birthday Steve

Have a good day,

Lots of love from

Mum, Dad & family
xxx

IN MEMORIAM

TIMSON EILEEN

In Memoriam
31 January 2016

Those we love remain
with us, for love
itself lives on. And
cherished memories
never fade, because
a loved one is gone.
Those we love can
never be, more than
a thought apart. For
as long as there are
memories, they'll live
on in our hearts.

xx Miss you more
each day xx

Tony & Karen,
Michael, Martyn &
Rhona, Donna & Les,
Grandkids & Great
Grandkids
xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

EILEEN TIMSON

In Memoriam - Sister
31 January 2016

We miss you and
think about you every
day.

xx Marie & John, Kids
& Grandkids xx
xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

NIXON RONALD

The family of Ronald
Nixon wish to express
their sincere thanks
to all relatives friends
and neighbours for
their kindness and
sympathy shown
to them during their
recent bereavement.
Alo for the cards,
letters of condolence
and donations to
the British Heart
Foundation. Thanks to
Reverand Brian Astill
and Graham J Clegg
Funeral Directors
in Maghull for their
dignified funeral
arrangements.

WIGNALL RICHARD (DICK)

Joyce and the family
would like to thank
relatives, friends and
neighbours for their
messages of
condolence, cards,
prayers and donations
received during their
recent bereavement.
Many thanks to all
the medical staff at
Southport Hospital and
the Community Teams
who cared so well for
Richard. Special thanks
to Pastors Stuart Harding
and Peter Day for their
kind ministrations. Also
to Derek at Howard's
Funeral Directors for
their dignified funeral
arrangements.

DUNN GEORGE STEPHEN

The family of the late
George Dunn would
like to express their
heartfelt thanks to
all relatives, friends
and neighbours, for
all their sympathy
cards, messages
of condolence and
donations for Cancer
Research, received
during their recent sad
loss. Special thanks
also to Father Boniface
Moran for his kind
words of comfort
and Lisa Hunter
MLS Independent
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their dignified funeral
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bronwyn@craftycooks.co.uk

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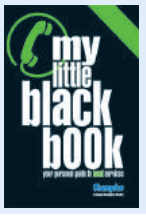

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It's time ordinary motorists caught up to technology

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I'M SURE I'll read this in 2027 and be acutely embarrassed but I'll say it anyway; today's technology is amazing. I've no doubt *Champion* readers of the future will look back at right now and sneer at our primitive Trump Age inventions, but I'll happily defend them.

Last Sunday I was at a car show at Brooklands, more than four hours' drive away in deepest Surrey. Yet by the powers vested in my smartphone I was able to snap an Austin Seven being driven in anger, and a few seconds later you could see it in all its hi-res, technicolour glory on Facebook.

A few hours later my pocket-sized miracle worker was able to harness the might of 31 satellites in space to seamlessly guide me around the M25's traffic jams. Oh, and you can also ring people on it on as well.

Yet in this seemingly enlightened age you can still be asked to produce good old-fashioned bits of paper if you're pulled over by the police and need to prove you have insurance or an MoT.

Yet – and you probably won't be the slightest bit surprised to learn this – record numbers of drivers simply don't carry them around with them.

The police have their own system to check on this – it's called Automatic Number Plate Recognition, or ANPR for short. I've seen it in action and it's brilliant.

Even when they're driving past another car at 50mph it can read your plate and in an instant deduce whether you're a wrong 'un or not, and whether you're likely to appear in an upcoming episode of *Traffic Cops*.

But I reckon it's time we, the ordinary motorists, caught up.

We've already worked out how to do away with paper tax discs and paper driving licences, but surely it's time to look at how we can do away with the other bits of paper that inevitably end up clogging up a box file in your study too? If we can manage paperless bank statements and paperless gas bills then doing the same – and securely – for registration documents, insurance documents and MoT certificates can't be that tricky.

Surely giving your friendly constable chum a single card to swipe through on their system – or even a smartphone with a bit of electronically-generated code – would save plenty of trees. It would also avoid the need to pop to a police station with said documents within seven days. Certainly it'd avoid the situation of record numbers of drivers not having their details to hand, for sure. I can only hope in some sort of Skunk Works in deepest Swansea that the DVLA's brightest minds are already working on just such a thing.

Then they – like my self of 2027 – can look back on this primitive age of paper-dependent motoring and wonder what all the fuss was about.

David Simister is the editor of Classic Car Weekly.

The boys in blue are finding a record number of us no longer have motoring documents in the car with us

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2011 (11) FORD FOCUS ZETEC 5DR, in moondust silver, with A/C, e/pack, alloys, HFS, CD etc, only 46,000 miles £5,495
2011 (11) VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 SXL, in sovereign silver with A/C, e/pack, alloys, CD etc, FSH, only 28,000 miles £4,995
2011 (60) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA DESIGN DIESEL, 7 seater, in silver, with A/C, e/pack, alloys, CD etc, only 41,000 miles £5,995
2009 (59) RENAULT GRAND MODUS 1.1 DYNAMIQUE 5DR, in burgundy with A/C, e/pack, alloys, CD etc, only 32,000 miles £3,995
2007 (07) FORD KA ZETEC CLIMATE, in met green, only 34,000 miles with A/C, e/pack, alloys, CD etc, FSH £2,495

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2013 (63) NISSAN QASHQAI 360 1.6 AUTO, met. grey, 1/2 leather, panoramic roof, 26,000 miles.... £12,495

2013 (13) VW UP (HIGH UP) 1.0 AUTO, silver, sat nav, heated seats, alloys, 7,000 miles only..... £7,195

2013 (13) VOLVO XC 60 R-DESIGN D4 4 WHEEL DRIVE, metallic grey, leather, 35,000 miles £17,995
2014 (14) AUDI Q3 2.0 TDI SE, metallic grey, alloys, air con. 36,000 miles £16,495
2013 (62) NISSAN JUKE 1.6 TEKNA, metallic grey, leather, heated seats, sat nav, camera £9,995
2013 (13) FORD C-MAX 1.6 ZETEC, alloys, air con. black, low mileage £8,750
2013 (63) VAUXHALL MERIVA 1.4 T SE, alloys, air con. metallic teracotta,low mileage £7,495
2013 (13) PEUGEOT 308 ACTIVE 1.6 HDI, babylon red, alloys, air con. 16,000 miles £7,195
2013 (13) PEUGEOT 308 ESTATE 1.6 HDI ACCESS, silver, low mileage, air con £7,195
2009 (09) NISSAN QASHQAI 2.0 ACENTA AUTO, silver, 48,000 miles, alloys, air con £6,495
2015 (65) SKODA 1.0 CITIGO SE, 5 DOOR, tornado red, air con. 7,000 miles. £6,000
2010 (10) VAUXHALL ASTRA SRI 2.0 CDTI (157) 5 DOOR, light blue metallic, 64,000 miles. £5,495
2013 (13) FORD C-MAX 1.6 ZETEC, alloys, air con. red, low mileage. ..... SOLD
2013 (13) FORD FOCUS ST 2, 5 DOOR, white, graphite alloys, 1 owner, FSH. 37,000 miles ..... SOLD
2013 (13) NISSAN QASHQAI 360 1.6, white, parking cameras, panoramic roof, 21,000 miles ..... SOLD
2015 (64) NISSAN NOTE 1.2 ACENTA PREMIUM, metallic red, sat. nav 5,000 miles only ..... DUE
2014 (63) NISSAN NOTE 1.2 ACENTA, metallic blue, low mileage ..... DUE

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www.auto-evolve.com

13 FIAT 500 1.2 LOUNGE BIANCO, white, PAS, E/W, C/L, A/C, alloys, pan roof, 21,000 miles, 1 owner £5,995

62 VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 ACTIVE 3DR, white, PAS, E/W, C/L, ABS, A/C, alloys, 21,000 miles, s/history £4,995

57 PEUGEOT 207 S 3-Dr 1.4 5spd, electric blue, PAS, E/W, r/locking, ABS, 69,000 miles £2,395

09 SKODA FABIA 1.4 TDI DIESEL 5SPD, champagne metallic, PAS, E/W, c/locking, CD, s/history, 63,000 miles, £30 a year tax.... £3,395

63 CITROEN C3 PICASSO VTR 1.6 HDI DIESEL, met blue, PAS, E/W, central locking, ABS, A/C, CD, £20 a year tax..... £5,495

DIESELS
63 CITROEN C3 PICASSO VTR 1.6 HDI DIESEL, met blue, PAS, E/W, central locking, ABS, A/C, CD, £20 a year tax..... £5,495
09 SKODA FABIA 1.4 TDI DIESEL 5SPD, champagne metallic, PAS, E/W, c/locking, CD, s/history, 63,000 miles, £30 a year tax £3,395
58 VAUXHALL ASTRA DIESEL 1.7 5DR, metallic blue, PAS, E/W, central locking, A/C, ABS, alloys, CD £2395
56 SAAB 9-3 VECTOR 1.9 DIESEL 6SPD, met blue, half leather, PAS E/W, central locking, alloys £2,395
54 CITROEN PICASSO 1.6 DIESEL EXCLUSIVE, blue metallic, PAS, E/W, central locking, A/C, ABS, alloys..... £1,295
51 BMW 530SE DIESEL ESTATE, orient blue, auto, PAS, e/w, c/locking, A/C, alloys, service history, sat nav £1,995
02 BMW 330 DIESEL ESTATE M SPORT AUTO, met silver, PAS, leather, alloys, climate control, electric windows £1,595

06 PORSCHE CAYMAN S 3.4 6spd, guards red, leather trim, PAS, E/W, r/c/l, sat nav, A/C, ABS, cruise, s/history, 56,000 miles, lady owned, stunning £14,995
12 FORD GRAND C-MAX 1.6 DIESEL, met grey, 6spd, PAS, E/W, central locking, Bluetooth, 7 seats, alloys, 80,000 miles, 1 owner £6,995
58 FIAT 500 1.2 LOUNGE BIANCO, white, PAS, E/W, central locking, A/C, alloys, pan roof, 40,000 miles, service history..... £4,695
03 MERCEDES SLK 200K AUTO CONVERTIBLE, met silver, PAS, E/W, central locking, alloys, full history, superb throughout £4,495
05 VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 LIFE 5-DR, met silver, PAS, E/W, central locking, CD, low insurance group..... £1,495
01 VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 LIFE 5-DR, space green, PAS..... £895

Executive Specials
65 BMW 430 M+ SPORT DIESEL COUPE AUTO, grey metallic, black leather, fully loaded, 19,000 miles, 19" alloys, professional media £28,995
65 BMW 330 M SPORT X DRIVE ESTATE DIESEL AUTO, performance pack, leather, 19" alloys, only 6,000 miles £27,995
54 SEAT IBIZA 1.2 3DR, red, PAS, E/W, C/L, ABS, 1 lady owner, 45,000 miles £1,495
04 RENAULT SCENIC MPV 1.6, met silver, PAS, E/W, central locking, A/C, alloys, service history, low mileage..... £1,495
00 W VW GOLF CONVERTIBLE 1600 6spd, met black, PAS, E/W, central locking, power hood, alloys, lady owned..... £1,695
R BMW 525 TDI DIESEL ESTATE, met silver, leather, PAS, E/W, ... £995
R SAAB 9-5 SE 2.0 5spd, PAS, E/W, S/H, ABS, leather £695

VANS
60 PEUGEOT PARTNER 1.6 HDI 5SPD, blue, PAS, ABS E/W, CD, ABS, central locking, ply lined, 70,000 miles, very clean ..... £2,995 NO VAT
10 FORD TRANSIT 330 FWD, MWD, med roof, 2.2, 6spd, A/C, ABS, E/W, CD, 1 owner, heated front screen, SH, 60,000 miles ..... £4,995+VAT
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4x4's
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OTR PRICE	= £12,751.34
YOUR DEPOSIT	= £189
FDA & CONQUEST* ALLOWANCE	= £800*
47 MONTHLY PAYMENTS	= £189.92
GUARANTEED FUTURE VALUE	= £4,406
TOTAL AMOUNT PAYABLE	= £14,321.24
REPRESENTATIVE APR*	= 4.9%

£189 PER MONTH* PCP

£189 DEPOSIT

£800* DEPOSIT & CONQUEST* CONTRIBUTION

C1

£149 PER MONTH* PCP

£149 DEPOSIT

£200* DEPOSIT CONTRIBUTION

OTR PRICE	YOUR DEPOSIT	47 MONTHLY PAYMENTS	GUARANTEED FUTURE VALUE	TOTAL AMOUNT PAYABLE	REPRESENTATIVE APR*
£9,775.15	£149	£149.88	£3,651	£11,044.36	4.9%

C4 CACTUS

£199 PER MONTH* PCP

£999 DEPOSIT

£1150* DEPOSIT CONTRIBUTION

OTR PRICE	YOUR DEPOSIT	47 MONTHLY PAYMENTS	GUARANTEED FUTURE VALUE	TOTAL AMOUNT PAYABLE	REPRESENTATIVE APR*
£14,305	£999	£199.05	£4,410	£15,914.35	4.9%

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*Conquest contribution of £500 only for non Citroen part exchange vehicles. 4.9% APR Personal Contract Purchase offer on Citroen C3 PuteTech 68 manual Feel, based on £189 deposit followed by 47 monthly repayments of £189.92 Personal Contract Purchase offer on Citroen C1 Feel. Based on 47 monthly rentals of £149.88. Personal Contract Purchase offer on Citroen C4 Cactus 82 Feel. Based on £999 deposit 47 monthly repayments of £199.05 with an agreed 6,000 miles per annum. At the end of the Personal Contract Purchase there are three options (I) Pay the optional final payment to own the vehicle (II) Part Exchange the vehicle, where equity is available or (II) return the vehicle. * Terms and Conditions apply. Finance subject to status. 18's and over. Guarantee/indemnity may be required. Offer subject to availability. Standard emissions and vehicle data. Chapel House are authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority for consumer credit purposes Chapel House Motor Co Ltd (ref 668178), Chapel House Southport Ltd (ref 683972) and is an Appointed Representative of AutoProtect (MBI) Ltd (ref 312143) for insurance mediation purposes. You can check this on the FCA website register.fca.org.uk/ or by contacting the FCA on 0800 111 6768. Chapel House is a Credit Broker and not a lender and work with a limited number of providers. Registered Office 603-609 Liverpool Road, Ainsdale, Southport, Merseyside PR8 3NG Registered in England 1248452, 8437125 and 1376689.

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SZ-T

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1 YEAR'S FREE INSURANCE*

per month **£179** deposit **£179**

CASH PRICE	£11,459
48 MONTHLY PAYMENTS	£179.30
GUARANTEED FUTURE VALUE	£4,549
APR	5.9%
TOTAL AMOUNT PAYABLE	£13,344

SWIFT

per month **£149**

5 YEARS 0%

NO DEPOSIT

VITARA

SZ-T

per month **£189**

WITH NO DEPOSIT

• AUTO AIR CONDITIONING • CRUISE CONTROL WITH SPEED LIMITER
• BLUETOOTH & MUSIC STREAMING CONNECTIVITY • 16" ALLOY WHEELS
• FRONT & REAR SKID PLATES • RADIO/CD INCLUDING DAB DIGITAL RADIO & USB

SX4 S-CROSS

per month **£189**

WITH NO DEPOSIT

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• CLIMATE CONTROL • REAR PRIVACY GLASS

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PLUS FREE MOT TEST FOR LIFE

CORSA

2014 REG

- Alloy Wheels
- Air Con
- Front Fog Lights

£139 PER MONTH

2014 REG **VAUXHALL AGILA**

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0% APR NO DEPOSIT NO INTEREST

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2015 REG **VAUXHALL ADAM**

0% APR NO DEPOSIT NO INTEREST

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2015 REG **VAUXHALL ZAFIRA**

0% APR NO DEPOSIT NO INTEREST

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2014 REG **VAUXHALL ASTRA**

0% APR NO DEPOSIT NO INTEREST

£169 PER MONTH

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2014 REG **FORD KA**

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2014 REG **VOLKWAGEN UP**

0% APR NO DEPOSIT NO INTEREST

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2014 REG **FORD B-MAX**

0% APR NO DEPOSIT NO INTEREST

£149 PER MONTH

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2015 REG **SEAT IBIZA**

0% APR NO DEPOSIT NO INTEREST

£159 PER MONTH

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2014 REG **RENAULT SCENIC**

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2015 REG

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- PAS
- CD Player

£129 PER MONTH

2013 REG KIA VENGA

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£149 PER MONTH

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2014 REG KIA RIO

0% APR NO DEPOSIT NO INTEREST

£169 PER MONTH

FREE MOT TEST FOR LIFE

2014 REG CITROEN C3 PICASSO

0% APR NO DEPOSIT NO INTEREST

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FREE MOT TEST FOR LIFE

2015 REG CITROEN C1

0% APR NO DEPOSIT NO INTEREST

£149 PER MONTH

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0% APR NO DEPOSIT NO INTEREST

£89 PER MONTH

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0% APR NO DEPOSIT NO INTEREST

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2014 REG PEUGEOT 107

0% APR NO DEPOSIT NO INTEREST

£99 PER MONTH

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2013 REG MAZDA 3

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OUR PRICE £11896
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OUR PRICE £12399
£4200 SAVING AGAINST LIST PRICE

Vauxhall Astra Sport Tourer 1.6 CDTi SRI Nav
• Power Red • 1,607 Miles
OUR PRICE £15496
£8100 SAVING AGAINST LIST PRICE

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• Grey • 10,971 Miles
OUR PRICE £8500
£10085 SAVING AGAINST LIST PRICE

Vauxhall Corsa SRI 1.4 3dr
• Red • 4,386 Miles
OUR PRICE £9395
£3685 SAVING AGAINST LIST PRICE

Vauxhall Astra 1.0 Design Ecoflex S/S
• White • 6,693 Miles
OUR PRICE £11999
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• Blue • 2,391Miles
OUR PRICE £12499
£4671 SAVING AGAINST LIST PRICE

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62 REG VAUXHALL CORSA 3DR 1.2I 16V ACTIVE A/C, FLAME RED 23019 MILES £5396
63 REG VAUXHALL ADAM 3DR 1.2 70PS JAM, GREENSPOTTING 44297 MILES £5496
11 REG FORD FIESTA ZETEC, WHITE 22357 MILES £5699
63 REG VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 5DR 1.6I 16V 115PS DESIGN, CARBON FLASH 22323 MILES £5850
13 REG VAUXHALL CORSA 5DR 1.4 SE A/C AUTO, SILVER 33590 MILES £6494
63 REG CITROEN C1 PLATINUM, RED 10623 MILES £6499
10 REG VOLKSWAGEN POLO SE 85, BLACK 15713 MILES £6799
63 REG VAUXHALL MERIVA 1.4I TURBO 120 EXCLUSIV A/C, RED 19884 MILES £6999
12 REG VAUXHALL CORSA 3DR 1.6T VXR, FLAME RED 38905 MILES £6999
64 REG VAUXHALL CORSA 3DR 1.2I VVT LIMITED EDITION A/C, WHITE 15534 MILES £6999
FORD B-MAX ZETEC AUTO, SILVER 10782 MILES £7499
63 REG VAUXHALL MERIVA 1.4I 100PS SE A/C, CHILLI ORANGE 5461 MILES ... £7499
64 REG VAUXHALL ASTRA 5DR 1.4I VVT 100PS SRI, BLACK 36235 MILES £7699
16 REG VAUXHALL CORSA 3DR 1.4 90PS SRI ECOFLEX, GREY 13252 MILES £7996
13 REG VAUXHALL ASTRA SPORTS TOURER 2.0CDTI 165PS SE S/S, OLYMPIC WHITE 27438 MILES £7999
13 REG FORD FOCUS ZETEC TDCI, RED 26000 MILES £8296
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Total Amount Payable	£13,811.50
APR	4.8%

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£165 PER MONTH AND £165 DEPOSIT

06 Vauxhall Price £13,800

Cash Price	£13,800
Deposit Allowance	£1,800
Minimum Part Exchange	£500
Customer Deposit	£165
Amount of Credit	£11,335
45 Monthly Payments	£165.24
Optional Final Payment	£4,750
Interest Charges	£1,181.28
Total Amount Payable	£15,279.28
APR	4.6%

Vauxhall Adam 1.2 Energised 3dr

£169 PER MONTH AND £169 DEPOSIT

06 Vauxhall Price £13,543.46

Cash Price	£13,543.46
Deposit Allowance	£1,600
Minimum Part Exchange	£500
Customer Deposit	£169
Amount of Credit	£11,274.46
47 Monthly Payments	£169.98
Optional Final Payment	£4,440
Interest Charges	£1,154.60
Total Amount Payable	£14,698.06
APR	3.7%

Vauxhall Astra 1.4 Special Edition Energy 125PS 5dr

£199 PER MONTH AND £399 DEPOSIT

06 Vauxhall Price £16,903.94

Cash Price	£16,903.94
Deposit Allowance	£2,000
Minimum Part Exchange	£500
Customer Deposit	£399
Amount of Credit	£14,004.94
47 Monthly Payments	£199.98
Optional Final Payment	£6,080
Interest Charges	£1,474.12
Total Amount Payable	£18,378.06
APR	3.7%

Vauxhall Corsa 1.4 Energy 90PS A/C 3dr

£139 PER MONTH AND £139 DEPOSIT

06 Vauxhall Price £11,887.01

Cash Price	£11,887.01
Deposit Allowance	£1,800
Minimum Part Exchange	£500
Customer Deposit	£139
Amount of Credit	£9,448.01
45 Monthly Payments	£139
Optional Final Payment	£3,895
Interest Charges	£979.99
Total Amount Payable	£13,165
APR	4.8%

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£219 PER MONTH AND £499 DEPOSIT

06 Vauxhall Price £18,458.12

Cash Price	£18,458.12
Deposit Allowance	£2,400
Minimum Part Exchange	£500
Customer Deposit	£499
Amount of Credit	£15,060.12
47 Monthly Payments	£219.99
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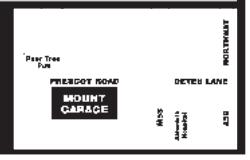

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Linnets and Skem both face tough tests this weekend against promotion candidates

BOTH Burscough and Skem face a tough weekend, against teams that have their focus firmly fixed on promotion, *writes Neil Leatherbarrow.*

Burscough are at home on Saturday, February 4 against an experienced Trafford team who sit third in the Evo-Stik Division One North table only five points behind leaders Lancaster City.

Skelmersdale, with a new manager, face a trip to Whitby, who are fourth in the Evo-Stik Premier Division table.

It is likely that a team of youngsters will take the field for Skem who have parted company with manager Tommy Lawson after almost eleven years in the hot seat.

His replacement is Alan Rogers, a man who was once sold for a reported £3.2 million and has a wealth of footballing contacts.

Burscough have struggled this season but January has brought two victories and with the teams immediately above them floundering with their own form a consistent run would give them a chance of avoiding a sad end to the season.

Burscough showed last weekend they can be a handful and are decidedly awkward to play against, it could be a closer game than the league tables would have you believe at Victoria Park on Saturday.

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Lawson sacked after ten years

By **Henry James and Tom Martin**

SKELMERSDALE United have sacked long-standing manager Tommy Lawson.

Lawson, manager of the club for just over 10 years, was dismissed last Thursday evening, with assistant manager Tony Sullivan and coach Dom Finnigan also leaving the club.

The club have appointed former Premier League player Alan Rogers as the new manager.

The announcement comes as United sit at the bottom of the Evo-Stik League Premier Division and without a win this year.

Lawson became Skelmersdale United manager in the summer of 2006.

He led Skelmersdale to a regular position in the play-offs for promotion from Division One North of the Evo-Stik League including finising in the runners-up position twice.

He achieved promotion in 2012/13 as champions of the Northern Division.

Facing severe financial constraints, however, Lawson had struggled to strengthen the squad this season and the team have had only three league wins and have exited at the first round of all cup competitions.

A club statement said "Tommy has worked within a limited budget over the past few weeks, with the club bottom of the league it is with regret that the club have to look elsewhere for a new man to take the helm and try to turn around the clubs fortunes.

"Skelmersdale United would like to thank Tommy for the time and commitment he gave the club and for what he did for the club both on and off the field."

Tommy Lawson

Fans have been expressing their shock and disappointment at the decision as at the end of 2016 Lawson had said he would continue in the position despite facing an exodus of players after the club decided to cut the budget for players because of a loss of funding.

TOMMY Lawson has thanked Skelmersdale United fans for their support over the last ten years - and says he hasn't ruled out becoming a manager again in the future.

He has described his time at the club as a "fantastic journey" and says he wishes the team all the best for the rest of the season.

Asked about a return to the game, he said: "This is something I've done for 25 years and if someone wanted to speak to me and tap into my experience, I would be happy to speak to any ambitious and well-run club."

He added: "It's been well documented that the club found themselves in financial difficulties and lost a lot of resources and it had a bearing on the team.

"It left us without a lot of high profile players and we had to look at others who had potential."

During his ten years at Skem, there are many highlights which will come to mind for both Tommy and supporters.

"Seeing some of the young lads come up and turn professional has been brilliant. Also getting to the play-off finals five times and coming runners up twice.

"It has been a fantastic journey and a great ten years. I'm very proud of what I have achieved at Skem and I thank them wholeheartedly.

"I wish the club all the best in the future and also the new manager. I hope he has as much fun as I had."

Rogers has top level experience

ALAN Rogers is a former professional footballer who spent many years in the game making over 200 appearances for Notts Forest and winning the Championship title with the club in 1997-98, having signed for the club from Tranmere Rovers for £2.5 million.

Alan has also had spells at Leicester City and Hull, finishing his career at Accrington Stanley.

His coaching credentials include assistant manager at Sligo Rovers alongside Micky Adams and a spell as assistant manager at Tranmere Rovers where he was also was caretaker manager in 2015.

He was recently Youth Team coach at Burnley.

Alan Rogers in his playing days.

Skipper's spectacular strike just not enough to earn plucky Burscough a point

Burscough 1
Bamber Bridge 3

A SPECTACULAR goal by Burscough wasn't enough to see them earn a vital point in their fight against relegation after conceding two late goals, *writes Neil Leatherbarrow.*

After going in front with a spectacular chip around the half-hour mark, the Linnets held their own until the later stages when their hard work was undone.

In the 32nd minute Burscough opened the scoring in breath-taking fashion when captain Phil Bannister, seeing Bridge goalkeeper Steve James on his penalty spot, lifted a chip from 30 yards out which floated into the net.

Burscough went close again two minutes later but Adam Gilchrist's volley went wide.

Burscough had worked extra hard to close the South Ribble based side, but it would have an impact in the clinging mud as the game progressed.

In the 56th minute Bridge levelled. A cross from the right was headed on and Aaron Fleming was left in space at the far post and he scored via the post.

The game became stretched as Bridge pushed for a winner, but for a while it benefited Burscough.

On 57 minutes a cross from Alex Pollin found Reece McNally at the far post and really he should have done better with his free header.

Then on 65 minutes Bannister fizzed a 25-yarder just wide of the goal, a feat he repeated on 68 minutes with a 25-yard free-kick.

It was beginning to look like the likely outcome would be a draw when Bamber Bridge won a corner on the right on 82 minutes.

The ball was lifted into the heart of the Burscough area where Doughty ran in and crashed a header through a crowded goal-line to give Bridge a 2-1 lead.

Burscough now had to commit players forward and one move in the 90th minute looked promising as they passed the ball around well probing for an opening, but then disaster struck.

A wayward pass put Bridge away and substitute Regan Linney carried the ball across the Burscough area before putting a powerful drive into the home net.

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